

BELLEVILLE - AREA **INDEPENDENT**

Vol. 18.25 Thursday, June 21, 2012

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E

VBT board holds closed session on Fire Chief Loyer

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Tuesday, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees held a special work-study meeting, mostly in closed session, "To discuss and consider the dismissal, suspension or disciplining of an employee, pursuant to the employee's request."

Under the Open Meetings Act, an employee has the choice of having such a disciplinary hearing in open or closed session.

The employee being discussed was Fire Chief Darwin Loyer, who reportedly has been suspended three times over the past year.

This most recent issue has to do with a complaint filed April 23 by Fire Captain Anthony Karver, who was Incident Commander of an April 18 structure fire at 6198 West Adams Street.

Karver also is full-time Fire Inspector for Van Buren Township.

According to the complaint, when Karver arrived at the April 18 fire, he said the single-story, single-family dwelling had heavy smoke and flames coming from the rear of the home. A female resident had been injured.

Karver took command of the fire fighting and gave assignments to those arriving. Four were preparing for an interior attack through the north door. Chief Loyer arrived and was assigned to protect exposures at the south side of the structure.

Karver had set a positive pressure fan at the front door (southeast corner) to assist with pushing the smoke and heat towards the rear and out of the dwelling.

The crew entered the side door to begin



Photo courtesy Paul Henning

On Tuesday afternoon a workman's torch ignited debris in the cafeteria at Belleville High School as the demolition of its walls and interior continues. School Supt. Michael Van Tassel reported the Belleville Fire Department put out the fire and no one was injured. Police Chief Gene Taylor, right, surveys the smoke. The cafeteria is getting a roof raising, interior pillar removal, and new, large windows, so it is pretty much being gutted, so the construction work to transform it into a commons area can begin.

extinguishing the fire and shortly thereafter the men were halted in their efforts by what they described as a "rapid rush of heat and steam" while they were inside the structure.

Karver was advised they had pulled back due to the rapidly changing fire conditions. When Karver checked on the south side of the building, he did not find Loyer. He continued to the rear where he found Chief Loyer spraying water into the dwelling pushing the heat and generated steam into the dwelling on the interior attack crew.

"I was in disbelief," Karver wrote in his complaint. "I asked the Chief what he was doing instead of protecting exposures. I do not recall what he said, but I had told him

(continued on page 27)



Independent photo by Bob Mytych
Mark Bernstein gave out candy in Saturday's parade as he looked for votes in the University of Michigan Regent's race. With his decorated school bus behind him, Bernstein repeated that the state has to keep the doors open to higher education. After the parade he and his father Sam Bernstein talked with people at the Belleville Charhouse restaurant.

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Paid for by Committee to Elect Leon Wright, 9961 Andover Drive, Van Buren Township, MI 48111

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Planners give preliminary approval to Wellington project

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

Wellington Industries on the South I-94 Service Drive at Hannan Road got a huge, three-year contract with a Big Three auto company last November and needed to move quickly.

Wellington had to hire at least 50 more people and start making the auto parts by mid-summer 2012, but didn't have a building large enough to house the giant 4,200-ton press that was required.

At the June 13 meeting of the Van Buren Township Planning Commission, all the frenetic activity over the past few months paid off when the commissioners approved the preliminary site plan requested.

Actually, the 19,412-square-foot addition to the present 100,000-square-foot building is already pretty much complete, constructed on a fast track that required Wellington to build at its own risk hoping that its work would ultimately be approved.

If it miscalculated, it knew the building might have to be torn down.

In December, company officials came to talk to Van Buren Township Director of Planning and Economic Development Terry Carroll to find out what they had to do to move forward. In January township engineers sat down with Wellington and on Jan. 17 Wellington was granted three variances by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

One additional variance request was dropped because Wellington purchased the neighboring AB Myr parcel and planned to redraw the lot line for the necessary setback.

Wayde Hoppe, an architect who lives in Van Buren Township and is associated with Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, gave the presentation on behalf of Wellington to the BZA as well as the planning commission.

He said that Wellington purchased the huge press that was in Ontario and had it shipped by rail. Hoppe said he went to Ontario to see it and was very impressed.

He said the press stretched 34' into the air and 26' into a pit in the ground and was 55' long, with bolsters on the side. A 30-ton bridge crane must be able to travel over the top of the equipment and will sit 40 feet above the ground and maintain the minimum clearance required to the underside of the steel frame.

He said they needed a 220' long building with only perimeter columns. The building had to be very tall, very long and have a large basement/pit.

Hoppe said they had to have the building large enough to bring in trucks carrying coils of steel. The metal is fed through the middle of the press, which uses

hydraulics, squeezes the metal from the top and bottom. Dies go in and out in a complex maneuver and the inside of a door panel pops out.

"It's a big piece of metal," Hoppe said.

He said trucks will circulate through the site, back up, and leave through the Hannan Road truck entrance/exit.

"This is an important project for Wellington and for our community," Hoppe said.

Hoppe said during the course of planning reviews, Wellington was asked to bring the site up to current standards.

"We tried to work with the township and the township worked with us," Hoppe said.

He said they did an inventory of 245 trees on the site and some were bad and needed to be replaced. They agreed to put in a new fence, new plantings, trees along the fence, and parking lot islands. He said they are trying to comply with the present zoning ordinance and the building and fire codes.

The roof has a 1:12 slope with block wainscoting along the perimeter to match the existing building. There will be additional lighting in the parking lot.

It was found a sanitary sewer ran under the existing building and so Wellington rerouted the sewer around the building. It now will be able to service the adjacent property.

Detailed drawings have been sent to the state and are in the approval process.

Commissioner Bob McKenna wanted to make sure trucks wouldn't be leaving through the South I-94 Service Drive and Wellington agreed to post an additional sign that the exit is to Hannan.

The preliminary site plan was granted with some stipulations, including Wellington having all required permits, the township engineer's approval, and approval from the VBT Public Safety Department.

Wellington is expected to be back before the planning commission for final site plan approval on June 27.

"On July 1, in excess of 50 people will be showing up for work who wouldn't be working without this project," Carroll said.

Blaise Flack, CFO of Wellington, said they are excited with the project. He said his company just received its 25-year membership award from the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. He said the company currently has 180 hourly and 30 salaried employees and this project will add 50 to 70 new employees.

Scott Kettle, Facilities Manager for Wellington, noted this is a huge project.

Harlan Davenport was in the audience in support of Wellington. Davenport Brothers



Independent photo by James Oztman

This large new building has been constructed by Davenport Brothers for Wellington Industries on the South I-94 Service Drive.

Construction of Belleville is constructing the building.

John Delaney commented from the audience on the Wellington project, criticizing Carroll for allowing construction to begin before permits were paid for. He said it makes the township look bad to have buildings going up without the proper approvals.

In other business at its June 13 meeting, the commission:

- Gave final site plan approval to McDonald's for its upgrade to the restaurant at 10760 Belleville Road. The commission also approved the last-minute request to include completing the single approach in the front and removing one of the curb cuts. This previously had been planned in two phases. Architect Ken Van Tine said they will be working with the Wayne

County Road Commission to get the exact location for the approach. The back cross access to the Farmer Jack shopping center is expected to be granted fairly soon, as construction activity picks up in the shopping center location, Carroll said;

- Heard planning consultant Sally Hodges report the state has new regulations for co-locations on communications towers and she would like to discuss that with commissioners soon; and
- Heard Commission Don Boynton say he would like to have at least one ordinance project on each agenda. He said there are at least three ordinances waiting out there for decisions and, "We have to start getting them out to the township board." Carroll agreed to move the ordinances forward to the agendas.

VBT Planners coming close to site plan OK for cogeneration plant

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

Paul Mazanec, an engineer for Waste Management, showed the Van Buren Township Planning Commission a map of the gas collection system at the connected WM landfills in Canton and Van Buren during a special workshop session April 19.

The meeting was third in a series of workshops to go over the conditions for locating a cogeneration plant at 1 Visteon Way, explained Terry Carroll, VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development.

The township board approved the special land use for the landfill-gas-to-energy plant on the Visteon property a year ago, following the recommendation of the planning commission.

Recently, VBT Trustee Al Ostrowski tried to get the board to rescind its approval, but the board wasn't interested.

The planning commission is working on details before giving its approval to a preliminary site plan. One of the questions the board had was about the connection

(continued on page 9)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Lots of comments at VBT meeting that almost wasn't

Last week, Van Buren Township Supervisor Paul White decided, since no elected officials had given him any agenda items that needed action, he would cancel the regular work/study session on Monday and the regular meeting on Tuesday of this week.

Then, over the week end, the issue of the complaint against Fire Chief Loyer came to a head and White scheduled a workshop session that would immediately go into executive session to discuss this personnel problem. Attorney McCauley would be present for legal guidance.

But then, agitator John Delaney intervened after the meeting was posted and somehow "Non-agenda items" was added to the work/study agenda before the executive session. This public comment period lasted an hour and 20 minutes as members of the audience, many of whom were candidates for election, came up to the microphone to speak.

Topics included why the meeting was held at 7 p.m., the LDFA meeting earlier that day, the FEMA floodplain maps and all the grief they are causing, why the Environmental Commission refuses to be televised and why it hasn't kept minutes for a year and a half (now it will) and why VBT didn't do an emergency K2 ordinance as expected. Then, at 8:30 the board finally went into executive session.

The meeting that almost wasn't was recorded by Delaney for You Tube. Lots of arguing and carrying on – again.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria told me that last Wednesday he got to deliver to the museum about 18 scrapbooks put together by school secretary Virginia Gilinski more than 40 years ago.

Jack said his daughter Jackie Loria Floro, who is secretary to the Belleville High School principal, called him to say they found all these scrapbooks as they were emptying out the old BHS in preparation for demolition.

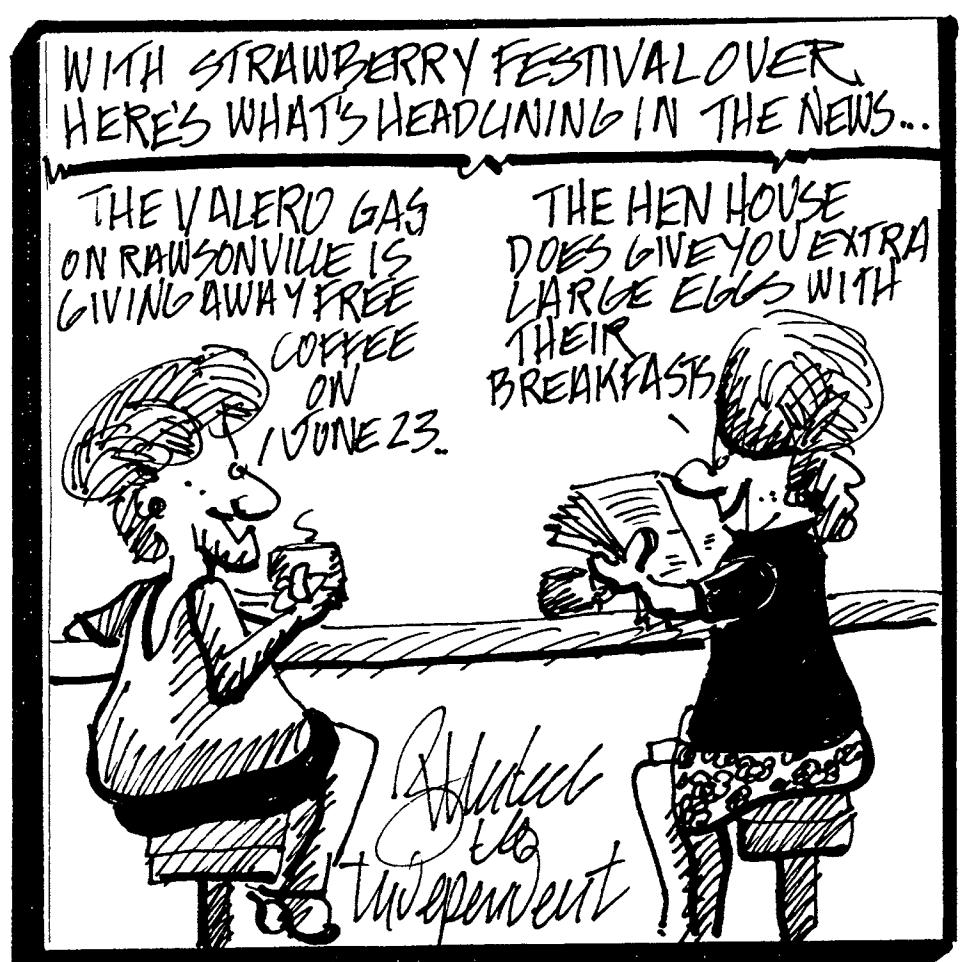
Jack said Jackie wanted him to call Tom Fielder to come get them, but Tom was up north, so Jack went over, picked up the scrapbooks (they filled up his car's trunk), and took them to the museum. They were accepted with open arms, he said.

Jack said there were stories cut out of the local newspapers, including the Ypsilanti Press (which no longer exists), including stories on the assassination of President Kennedy.

It is a treasure trove of information for someone interested in Belleville history and events of the day that impacted Belleville residents.

I received a call asking about a story that is going around that says Van Buren Township is looking at consolidating its fire department with Plymouth. I hadn't heard that before, but Plymouth isn't even contiguous with VBT, so it seemed unlikely to me.

I called VBT Supervisor Paul White and he said he had heard that rumor, too, but he has absolutely no information on that. He, too, pointed out Plymouth or Plymouth Township is nine miles or so to the north, so it hardly seems likely.



The Cruisin' the Bayou car show on Main Street, scheduled for June 11, was cancelled because a strong storm was expected, including hail. The car owners didn't want their special vehicles out in that. Hopefully, Mondays will have perfect weather for the rest of the summer. The show was back on Main last Monday.

And, then again, farmers and gardeners were praying for rain because of the drought. VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd told me her husband Bill is doing his rain dance, trying to get his corn crop watered.

I've been asked to encourage people to be good citizens and keep the area around the fire hydrants cleared out so fire fighters will be able to find them and get to them easily in case they are needed in an emergency.

A reader told me he was so pleased to see the area around a VBT hydrant cleared in April, but then a few weeks later a big pile of brush was in front of it, where someone had discarded stuff from yard cleanups. It could be a public safety problem if fire fighters couldn't find or couldn't get to a hydrant in a hurry. The house you save could be your own. I think it would be great if people would make sure the hydrants near their homes or businesses are visible.

I remember when the Sumpter Fire Department put out a call one snowy winter for residents to dig out their fire

hydrants. It's the same sort of thing, but with a summer twist.

As a follow-up, the reader called Sunday night to say the area he was worried about was cleaned up that day by someone.

Wolverine Trucking in Van Buren Township gave Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue a \$1,000 donation on June 14, the day of the trucking firm's 10th anniversary.

I asked architect Wayde Hoppe how plans for the BYC clubhouse were going and he said he is working on construction drawings. The BYC property is on North Liberty Street on the lake in the City of Belleville.

At Monday's City Council meeting, Tom Fielder announced that 14,000 tickets to see the white tigers were sold during Strawberry Fest. That's \$3 each.

On this week's VBT Police Dispatch Log, a 1:50 p.m., June 13, traffic stop was logged by Sgt. Fred Yono that reads for the location "Bemis/Coyote". Captain Greg Laurain explained that Sgt. Yono said "Coyote" is the name of a private drive off Bemis. No animal.

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mail@bellevilleareaindependent.com
**BELLEVILLE - AREA
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Letters

Flag Day was huge success in Belleville

To the Editor:

Thanks to the articles in the *Independent*, donation of many 12"x16" flags, and several dozen small flags from Brown Funeral Home, cooperation of many homeowners on S. Biggs, and help from a couple of ladies, the goal of having **100% of homes on S. Biggs displaying a Flag on Flag Day** was a huge success!

While promoting FLAG DAY, I along with a group of people, posted small flags in the area between the sidewalk and the street. We covered S. Biggs (which is now 100% flag displayed) along with Potter, Clarence, and Edgemont streets. This effort was being duplicated throughout the City of Belleville by many volunteers, including two council members, among others.

Numerous residents stopped us and thanked us for the work we were doing, and when they found out the flags were free, they were even more grateful.

Nearing the end of our project, we did run into one resident who came out of the house and in a hostile tone objected to our project and indicated it was against the law, and it was like a political statement, and he did not want the U.S. Flag displayed in front of his house. He advised us he had a flag and would display it when HE wanted to.

We proceeded to tell him this was being done to promote Flag Day, June 14th (the next day) and he said, "OK, I'll fly my flag tomorrow if I want. Take that flag out." We pulled the flag, left him standing next

to his garbage can in the area between the sidewalk and street and proceeded with our project.

Since when is it inappropriate to display the Flag of the United States, to honor the country we live in, our citizenship and veterans? I have always been under the impression that it was being a good U.S. citizen if you displayed your country's flag, and for any U.S. citizen to complain about a United States Flag being displayed ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, WOULD BE CONSIDERED UN-AMERICAN.

Pete Pitzen
Belleville Resident

Class of '72 looking for classmates for reunion

Dear Classmate:

Back in 1972, exciting things were happening all over the world. President Nixon made his historic visit to China, Apollo 16 carried home more than 200 pounds of rock from the moon, Mark Spitz won a record seven gold medals at the Moscow Olympics, Walt Disney World opened in Florida, and ... We graduated from Belleville High School!

To celebrate this historic event, please join us for the: Belleville High School Class of 1972 40-year reunion.

When: Saturday, August 11, 2012
Where: Detroit Metro Airport Marriott
30559 Flynn Road, Romulus, MI 48174 (phone 734-729-7555)

Time: 6:00 p.m. until 12 Midnight

Price: \$50 per person (that's \$100 per couple!)

Your evening will include a pool-side cocktail hour with cash bar, plated dinner, DJ music, dancing, fun emcee commentary, photo displays, 40th reunion booklet and the company of many terrific, old friends.

Please try to attend! Mail your check, payable to BHS Class of 1972, to: BHS Class of 1972, c/o Joyce Cooley, 42045 Lakeland Court, Plymouth, MI 48170-2507.

A limited number of Detroit Metro Airport Marriott hotel rooms have been set aside for us at a special rate. You can make arrangements online or phone 1-800-MARRIOTT and mention the Belleville 40th Class Reunion.

We hope to see you at the BHS Class of 1972 reunion, for an evening to remember! Please respond by June 29.

David (Skip) Baldwin, Randall Kenyon, Roberta (Bauman) Baldwin, Gary Krajewski, Tony Ellis, Joyce (Renton) Cooley, Mike Golden, Brad Susterka, Vickie (Johnson) Figg, Sharon Zatirka

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More Letters

Sharry Budd is honest, trustworthy person

To the Editor:

This letter is in support of Sharry Budd. Sharry is the present Township Treasurer and is running for another term. I want people to know if they support Sharry Budd they will have the most honorable, trustworthy person possible to take care of the money that comes into the township.

I have known Sharry for most of my life. She has always been one of the most caring, truthful and honest people I've ever had the honor of knowing.

Sharry goes out of the way to give help to anyone who needs help. She would never betray her honor in any way. She's there when you need her day or night. She will listen to any concerns you might have and help if she can.

If you want an honest, trustworthy person in charge of the township funds, please vote for Sharry Budd for Van Buren Township Treasurer.

Thank you,
Phyllis Queener, Canton Township

Letter in support of Combs for Supervisor

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of Linda Combs, that is running for Van Buren Township Supervisor.

I have known Linda since she was hired by Van Buren Township administration to work in the Senior Center nearly 20 years ago. I've always found her to be honest and fair to all the people who worked for her and with her. She goes out of her way to make sure all who come to her with a problem, gets the help they need. If she doesn't know the answer, she will help find the information they need to make a decision.

I think she would do the job of township supervisor with all the dedication and honesty she gave to the people of the senior center. She is honest and trustworthy!

Please vote for Linda Combs for supervisor of Van Buren Township.

Thank you,
Phyllis Queener, Canton Township

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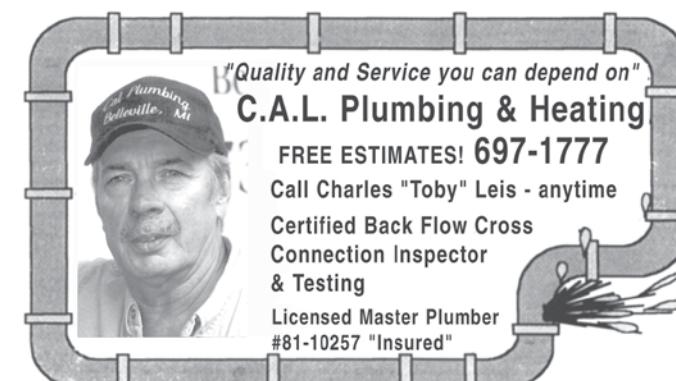
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Obituaries



Henry Harry Gasidlo



HENRY HARRY GASIDLO

(August 26, 1923 – June 15, 2012)

Henry Harry Gasidlo, age 88, of Belleville, MI, passed away Friday, June 15, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born August 26, 1923 in Sumpter Township, MI, son of the late John & Antoinette (Bernas) Gasidlo. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti, MI. He was a devoted man to his family and his God. He liked tinkering on his farm in Rockford, MI. He enjoyed tractors and keeping up his yard and was known to be able to fix anything and often said "Do it right the first time!" Mr. Gasidlo loved hunting, the outdoors, reading the newspaper, Tootsie Pops, listening to Polka music on Sundays, watching Detroit sports, and playing cards.

Survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Lucille (Rise) Gasidlo, daughter Bonnie (Ken) Mientkiewicz of Romulus, MI, 4 grandchildren: Ken Mientkiewicz, Jr. of Crystal Lake, Illinois, Jennifer Mientkiewicz of New Boston, MI, Kimberly Mientkiewicz of Lombard, Illinois and Steven (Jodie) Mientkiewicz of West Bloomfield, MI, one great-granddaughter Alyssa Mientkiewicz, also numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, also five brothers and two sisters.

Visitation was 2-8 PM Monday and 2-8 PM Tuesday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI and 10-11 AM Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River Street, Ypsilanti, MI with an 11:00 AM Funeral Service. Rev. David A. Hendricks officiated. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Church or to St. Joseph Mercy Home Care & Hospice and would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book at www.davidcbrownfh.com and share a memory for his family to treasure.

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SANDRA RACHEL McCOLLUM

(April 14, 1942 - June 17, 2012)

Sandra Rachel McCollum, age 69, passed away June 17, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. She was born April 1, 1942 to the late Charles Wilson and Mayfree "Lee" (Hampton) Turner in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Sandra was an avid reader. She enjoyed watching television and playing golf.

She is survived by sons, Russell Todd Morgan of Beaverton, Oregon and Scott (Penny) Morgan of Ypsilanti, MI, two grandchildren Nicholas and MacKenzie, also survived by a sister, Cindy Butler of Beaverton, Oregon and a brother Jimmy (Mary) Spencer of Ypsilanti, MI and five nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Gary McCollum in 2002.

Visitation will be held at David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville, MI Thursday, June 21 from 2PM to 8PM. A funeral service will be held Friday at the funeral home at 11:00AM. Pastor Larry Anderson will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association and would be appreciated by the family.

Please sign Sandra's on-line guest book and share a memory with her family at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Minor Irving Noiseau

MINOR IRVING NOISEAU

(May 16, 1925 - June 17, 2012)

Minor Irving Noiseau, age 87, passed away at his home, on June 17, 2012. He was born May 15, 1925 in Dearborn, Michigan, son of the late Irving and Nina Mae (Day) Noiseau.

Mr. Noiseau enjoyed spending time at home and loved dinners with his wife, whom he married May 4, 1948 in Wayne, Michigan. It was Minor's wishes to be immediately cremated. Please sign his online guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

More Letters

Thank you, Mike, for honoring our son Drew

To the Editor:

God never gives us more than we can handle. I've probably heard this thousands of times, yet I have never read this in His Word, The Bible. What He does say is He'll never leave us nor forsake us.

This June 18th marked one year since our son went home and into the arms of our Lord. What an honor and privilege to have known and loved him. When loved ones are taken from us, it's never an easy thing to heal from, but love is forever.

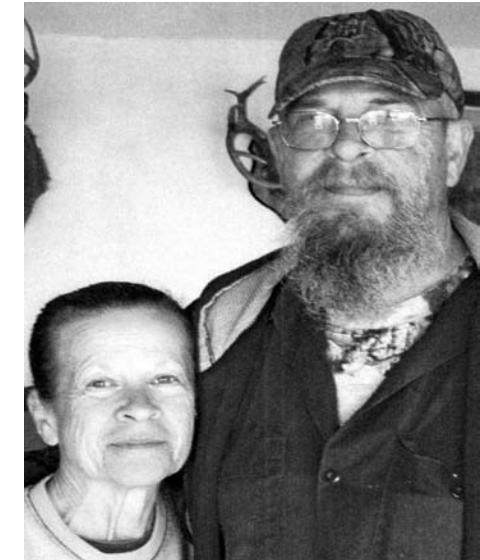
Drew's friends planted a tree in his remembrance, so since they did this, we wanted to put a bench by the tree to honor our son and his friends. He has the most amazingly wonderful friends, too.

We searched for just the right person to complete this task. One name kept coming back to us, Mike Cochenour.

So, I searched him out and he agreed to take on this task for us. I remembered Mike and Karen from school and knew he was a friend to my brother, but I was unaware of his amazing gift.

After months of work, he completed our bench. We could not have been more happy with what he did for us. In our eyes it was perfect.

Mike sent me to Matt at Van Buren Steel for the steel for the brackets and he was



Karen and Mike Cochenour

great in helping us complete those.

It was everything we wanted.

So, thank you again, Mike and Karen Cochenour, for blessing us.

Life is Precious. Friends are Priceless. Love is Wonderful. God is Amazing!

Andy and Wendy Clark

Katrina, Brittney, and Courtney Villasenor

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More Letters

Strawberry Festival: Finally, the aftermath

To the Editor:

Finally, the aftermath; after two dirty diapers, and lots of nasty garbage left in my yard (what's left from all the cars parking on my grass), watching tons of cars streaking down my street, that aren't "Jet's" pizza delivery drivers, we can call the Strawberry Festival closed for yet another year.

I "complained" (my words) last year about all the religious groups with booths; this year, yet again, without the out-of-state looney standing on one of the nice corner concrete \$4.5 million park benches, the festival was once again topped by yet more church groups turning the event into a bigger "guilt" trip.

"Guilt" you say? Yep, guilt; guilt while I try to walk down the hot corridor, set out to enjoy a few guilty pleasures; several corn dogs, sugar-coated treats and maybe some more butter laden goodies to help stop my heart; bad enough I have to live with all this doctor-induced guilt I am consuming, but my very heart and soul, is safe as well with all the religious groups seeing fit (for a small fee of course) that if I did die from all my "guilty pleasures" of the moment, at least they could guide me to the pearly gates.

Just for the record, please tell me, a guilty soul, just how is a religious group's booth, a part of a childhood celebration of happiness of sweets, treats and fun? I like to go to indulge myself in some enjoyment without the pandering of implied guilt of someone else's religious beliefs.

Not only is that bad enough, but other church groups bus in young outreach groups, to walk the crowd and pass out their own religious diatribe; bypassing the "booth" fees.

Oh yes, and the religious loonies weren't the only ones to rain on happy carnival goers guilty pleasures; no, I have to have "spirited" young adults pander to my political guilts, as well, badgering me to sign petitions, as I am a registered voter; when I politely declined, I was berated for my "lack" of community awareness.

So you see, my fellow Belleville residents, I am not a kill joy; I want to enjoy the fairway of guilty pleasures, pay way too much for food that is bad for me, spend time in lines for cheap thrills and partake in games that are rigged and I only win cheap Chinese prizes; don't ruin my fun by your "carnival barker" spokesman telling me I am going to hell, if I turn away from your booth or refuse your "free" Bible.

I am here to enjoy my evening, not to worry about your version of the afterlife; my stomach is already reminding me of my "guilt". I don't need yours.

Here's our Summer Band Concert schedule

To the Editor:

Here's the 2012 Belleville Community Band Summer Concerts:

- Sunday, June 24, 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St.;
- Friday, July 13, 7 p.m., Van Buren Park, I-94 South Service Drive; and
- Sunday, July 29, 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St.

The board and members of the Band would like to extend a warm thank you to our community, for all their support over the years. That has allowed us to provide good variety entertainment for all ages.

A special thank you to the following Belleville businesses:

J&T Crova, State Farm (Jackie Davis), David C. Brown Funeral Home, Martin & Son, Fielder's Collision, Sumpter Ace Hardware, Henry R. Deering Agency, Davenport Brothers, Belleville Animal Hospital, Curves, Perfect Image Salon, Water Works, Contract Welding, Marti's Gift Gallery, Belleville Charhouse, Garden Fantasy, Belleville Tax & Accounting.

For any questions, please contact Jack or Micky Keelan at 734-699-6350.

Rep. Slavens: Our kids need top-quality schools

To the Editor:

As the mother of three, grandmother of one and volunteer at the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, I am -- and will continue to be -- a champion for our kids' schools here in southeastern Michigan. Our kids need top-quality public schools, so they can get the education and skills they need to compete for jobs in the 21st century economy.

I've fought back against nearly \$1 billion in cuts Lansing Republicans have forced on Michigan's schools. These cuts have devastated local schools, costing Plymouth-

Canton Community Schools more than \$4 million and Van Buren Public Schools more than \$1.1 million in funding.

Because of the slashed funding, Plymouth-Canton laid off 269 teachers last year and an additional 68 teachers this year. In Western Wayne County schools, they've increased class sizes up to 35 students per class. This only served to hurt the quality of education our kids receive.

In this year's budget, House Republicans restored a tiny percentage of their harmful cuts and only for certain schools. For school districts like Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren, they provided nothing in additional per-pupil funding to restore last year's cuts. They did this just so they could mislead voters in an election year, attempting to hide the damage they've done to our kids' schools.

Our kids deserve to have the best education possible, and the only way we can do that is by restoring all of the funding taken from our local schools.

Rep. Dian Slavens
21st House District

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BHS Class of 1972 seeking classmates for 40th reunion

The 40th reunion of the Belleville High School Class of 1972 will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Detroit Metro Airport Marriott, 30559 Flynn Road, Romulus. Price is \$50 each (\$100 per couple). Mail checks, payable to BHS Class of 1972, c/o Joyce Cooley, 42045 Lakeland Court, Plymouth 48170-2507.

For more information, contact Joyce Renton Cooley, 734-420-2562, or Sharon Zatirka, 724-262-4660.

BHS Class of 1954 sets 58th reunion July 27-29

The 58th reunion of the Belleville High School Class of 1954 will be held the weekend of July 27-29 at the home of Lois Mida-Zilka, 3226 S. Canton Center Road, Canton 48188.

The reunion party will be picnic style and very casual attire. Cost is \$15 per person. Camping space is available on Lois' Mida-Zilka's property.

For more information, call her at 734-397-2675 or cell 734-546-2950.

The reunion committee also contains Earline Allen Cox, David Feight, Hugh McArthur, and Ron Rounser.

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Cogeneration

(continued from page 3)

between Canton and VBT landfills and if Canton gas would be piped to the VBT cogeneration plant.

Township Treasurer Sharry Budd went on a tour to see for herself and recommended the commission hear from the engineer on the layout.

Mazanec said WM has three landfills called Woodland Meadows: Woodland Meadows North in Canton was closed in 1985; Woodland Meadows South in Canton was closed in 1995; Woodland Meadows Van Buren is an active site.

He said there is one comprehensive landfill gas collection system for the three and the air quality permit covers the whole Woodland Meadows site. There is a series of flares.

He said Ameresco bought a plant on a Canton landfill in 1989 and it supplies energy to the Ford plant in Wayne. He said the new collection will feed both the Canton and proposed VBT site.

Mazanec said there is, give or take, about 15 years of life left in the VBT landfill. Gas production is hard to predict, he said, but once they stop adding to a landfill, the gas generation decreases. He said the two earlier sites had plenty of gas for Ford, but two years ago they had to pull some of the gas from VBT.

It was unclear whether there was an agreement that gave Ford preference for the gas.

Jeff Stander, representing Hoosier Energy/Ameresco, said, "There's so much gas between the sites, more than would be needed for the next 15 years for Ford and the new plant, and we will still need to flare."

Carroll said methane gas can't be banked and it has to be used as it is produced. Flares burn off the excess.

In its almost two-hour meeting, the commission also discussed:

- The proximity of the exhaust from the stacks to the air intakes of the Visteon building;
- The definition of "sensitive receptor" in the MDEQ documents, usually meaning a hospital, nursing home, or school shouldn't be downwind of the exhaust;
- Wind direction and two years of

meteorology from Detroit Metro Airport;

- Sound measurements and how long the plant can operate at the beginning before non-compliance is determined. Also, whether a mutually agreed upon independent sound person could be hired. The township will seek advice from its attorney and the applicants will seek advice from their people before deciding this issue;

- How much the compliance bond should be, with Budd saying \$500,000 isn't enough and it should be more like \$2 million, since there may have to be legal action. Carroll suggested they get the attorney's opinion on the areas a bond would be necessary, which would include noise compliance and stack maintenance;

- The expected life of the "hospital-grade silencer" on the roof of the plant. Stander said it doesn't wear out and Sally Hodges of McKenna Associates planning consultants responded, "Come on, everything wears out." They will get the specifications for that equipment;

- Confirmation that all documents are in order since there are time discrepancies on the land lease agreement, the landfill agreement, and the gas purchase agreement;

- A discrepancy with the soil erosion permit from Wayne County Department of Environment that says the project is complete. This information was brought forth by Budd; and

- The height of the wall to hide the plant from motorists on I-275, which commissioners agreed should be 20' all the way around, instead of stepping down to 14' at one point.

When discussion was opened up to the audience, John Delaney commented on some of the details and pointed out the plant should be totally screened and, "You can't screen 60' stacks with a 30' tree."

Ernie Tozer said that the neighbors had been advised of meetings on the cogeneration plant right along in the past, but, "We were not notified of this meeting tonight. First time."

Tozer said the recent sale of Visteon should impact the project. Also, he said, as he has in the past, that the cogeneration plant is not permitted in an Office Technology zoning and they are not following the ordinance they set up.

He said the split votes taken last year by the commission and the township board were premature because they were taken while members were still asking for more fact finding and, "therefore suspect."

Tozer said, "You labored over the stack color and screening. You could paint it red, for all I care. You don't follow your ordinance." He asked, "Who do the neighbors call when there are odors and noise?

"Van Buren Township, I think, has made a mistake. We should own up to it and fix it," he concluded.

The commissioners discussed how much time they would need to get information from the township attorney before meeting again.

Another workshop session on the project was held May 9. At this time, Carroll said it's time to have one more final submission to the township with all the attachments, the stack maintenance plans and other items on the documents.

"For ongoing purposes, we probably should have a re-submittal," Carroll said of the process that has taken more than a year.

Sally Hodges of planning consultants McKenna Associates said there should be a complete set of plans, with up-to-date permits.

Lawsuit looms

Meanwhile, a group of homeowners has hired a lawyer, Ralph M. Engle of Pontiac, who sent official notice to township officials on May 8 that a civil complaint will be filed in Wayne County Circuit Court if the township gives site plan approval for the co-generation plant.

The letter of intent said this land use violates the Zoning Ordinance for VBT and its Sequencing Standards.

The letter of intent includes written memos from former Planning and Economic Development Director Dan Swallow, consultant Hodges, and the township attorney stating the co-generation plant does not meet the Zoning Ordinance.

No mention of the law suit was made at any of the planning commission meetings since then.

Meeting that wasn't

On May 21 members of the planning commission received hefty packets of information for one agenda item for the

May 23 meeting: "Final Site Plan Approval for Hoosier Facility". But then, later May 21, the meeting was canceled, apparently because commissioners needed more time to study the documents.

The Hoosier item was not on the next planning commission agenda on June 13, but it is sure to be coming up soon.

City volunteers put out 500 American Flags to celebrate Flag Day

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

Volunteers put out 500 American Flags in the City of Belleville to mark this year's Flag Day on June 14.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor had envisioned flags at every home and every place of business and that was almost the case.

He said volunteers missed some streets, but that was OK. They did a great job getting the flags out and they ran out of flags to put out, anyway.

People get to keep the flags that were put in front of their homes.

He said flags were purchased with donations and there were flags donated by David C. Brown Funeral Home. Also, there were flags that were still good that had been picked up from veterans' graves at Hillside Cemetery when new flags were put in place for Memorial Day.

Chief Taylor said he had sold 240 flags with house mounts as part of project and people from outside of the City of Belleville also were taking part in the project.

He said a family from Texas, in town for the festival, said they went on the side streets of Belleville and saw flags all up and down the streets.

"That was kind of quaint," they said approvingly.

Chief Taylor said with this project he wanted to stir up patriotism for the United States of America.



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Belleville OKs 20% healthcare contribution for all city employees

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

In compliance with Public Act 152, the Belleville City Council on Monday approved 20% monthly healthcare premium contributions for all city employees, effective July 1.

The new Michigan law was effective last September and covered employees after current union agreements expired.

The Police Officers Association of Michigan union agreement has been expired for some time and they already pay the 20%. The other two unions for city employees expire June 30.

The city is getting an attorney's opinion on whether retirees getting health care are included in this law. The city currently has three retired police officers and one other retiree getting health benefits.

In other business at Monday's 35-minute meeting, the council:

- Approved a professional services agreement with Plante Moran not to exceed \$5,000 for calculating the city's other post-employment benefits (OPED) in compliance with Government Accounting Standards Board #45;

- Approved the 2012/13 Fee Schedule Amendment;

- Approved the SMART Municipal Credits agreement that brings \$3,914 for the local senior/disabled transportation program with a local match of \$4,501 funded with the Senior transportation budget;

- Approved the closing of Fourth Street from Main to the library at Charles Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 13 for the annual Harvest Fest;

- Approved accounts payable of \$216,166.91 and departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Allie Brother, \$1,138.15 for police uniform for Officer Wolfe; to BS&A Software, \$6,740 for computer upgrades; to Martin & Son, \$1,933.52 for vehicle repairs from the general fund and DDA; to P&W Paging, \$4,840 for new fire department pagers; to Time Emergency, \$7,455 for fire department turnout gear; and to Westland Fire, \$571 for annual maintenance;

- Removed from the Follow-Up List an item that was put on by former Mayor Pro Tem Rick Dawson on Nov. 3, 2008, that was aimed at replacing all the old fire hydrant connections in the city. DPW Director Keith Boc said the city's new standard is 3.75" connections and they are being replaced gradually. There is no money for a general replacement, he said;

- Heard Boc report that water meters are being installed in one section of the city at a time. He said letters went out this week to the Huron River Drive subdivisions;

- Heard comments from council members on how smoothly the Strawberry Festival went. "It was a nice, quiet family event," said Councilwoman Kim Tindall. Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria thanked everyone in the community for putting on the festival

and showcasing Belleville. He said he counted 90 cars at that evening's car show on Main Street, which is another good event. "It takes a lot of people to make that happen," Mayor Kerreen Conley said in complimenting the events;

- Heard John Juriga complain about the sermons from people on Main Street during the festival and people screaming religious comments over speakers. He said he is for freedom of expression, but that was too much. He wanted a speakers' corner, to get them into one place, like Trafalgar Square in London. Police Chief Gene Taylor said the people have freedom of speech and have the right to express themselves, as long as there is no jostling or physical contact. Juriga said, "I find that embarrassing for the community." Councilwoman Tindall replied that it would be more embarrassing to put duct tape on their mouths and take them out of town and the citizens end up having to pay for big law suits; and

- Went into executive session to discuss the status and strategy of pending union negotiations. They reconvened into regular session only to adjourn.

Civil Service Commission

The Belleville Civil Service Commission met Tuesday, June 19, to interview four male and three female applicants for police officer positions in the city.

Chief Taylor said he sent out 50 letters to pre-screened job-seekers and got just 14 responses. Of the nine selected for interviews, two got jobs before Tuesday's session.

Chief Taylor said Belleville Officer John Kapchus tendered his resignation in April and said he would stay until the end of July. But, he changed his mind and recently turned in his gear and left, Chief Taylor said.



Joshua Wolfe was sworn in as Belleville's newest full-time police officer and began work on April 26. He replaces David Brooks who took a job with the Romulus P.D.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- Thursday, June 21 – Civil War Genealogy workshop, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home", with Jana Sloan Broglan at the Belleville Area Museum, 6 p.m. Tickets \$3/\$5.

- Thursday, June 21 – Free outdoor concert by Steve King & the Dittilies, 7-9 p.m., Horizon Park in Belleville. Music Lakeside sponsored by Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

- Thursday, June 21 – "The Other Book Group" meets at the Bayou Grill at 7 p.m. This month's book: "This is Your Brain on Music" by Daniel Levitin.

- Friday, June 22 – Free Outdoor Family Movie Night at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Road, New Boston, 734-654-9020. Gathering at 8 p.m., movie begins at 8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

- Friday, June 22 – Takin' it to the Streets event for children at Tyler Elementary School parking lot, 1-4 p.m. Preregistration by Friday, June 15, with Van Buren Township Recreation Dept., 699-8921,

- Saturday, June 23 – Take your household hazardous waste, including old computers and other electronics, to a Wayne County Collection from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, just south of Ford Road. Information: (734) 326-3936.

- Saturday, June 23 – Classic Car Show (free) and Tea and Sweets (\$5) will be put on by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts at Victory Park, noon-5 p.m. This is the rain date from the event that first was scheduled for June 2.

- Sunday, June 24 – Belleville Community Band concert, 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles.

- Monday, June 25 – Cruisin' on the Bayou car show on Main Street in Belleville, 6-9 p.m.

- Tuesday, June 26 – Tuesday's Cruisin' the Belleville Moose, 6-9 p.m., music, food, drinks every Tuesday, 831 E. Huron River Dr.

- Wednesday, June 27 – Classic Car Show at Diamond Back Saloon, 49345 S. I-94 Service Drive, sponsored in part by Ypsi Street Rods, 6 p.m. – dark, DJs, BBQ

- Thursday, June 28 – Free outdoor concert with Rock Harley as Johnny Cash, 7-9 p.m. at Horizon Park, High Street, Belleville. Music Lakeside sponsored by Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

- Thursday, June 28 – African American Book Group meets at the library at 7 p.m. This month's book: "Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilkerson.

- Sunday, July 1 – Bugles Across America, 7:15 p.m., at Veterans Memorial on High Street, Belleville, to honor the military, past and present.

- Monday, July 2 – Cruisin' on the Bayou car show on Main Street in Belleville, 6-9 p.m.



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Sumpter Twp. OKs up to \$3,000 to study crumbling pump station

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

The sewer pump station at the corner of Willis and Sumpter roads is only about 10 years old, but the cement walls are being eroded away.

At its regular meeting on June 12, the Sumpter Township Board approved adding the emergency issue to its agenda and then voted to expend up to \$3,000 for Hennessey Engineers to test the concrete to see what's going on.

"It's very important we get this checked out right away, or the walls could fall in," said Marvin Drews, Water and Sewer Superintendent. "It takes care of half the township."

The issue was brought to the attention of the board by Ryan Kern of Hennessey, who said he checked another pump station that is the same age and it is OK.

He suggested the situation might be solved with a coating or lining, but, "It looks like it may be beyond that." He said it is crumbling away.

He said a contractor could take cores to see if there was a bad mix of concrete. He said there were problems with concrete in this area during the time it was installed.

He said it would take from \$2,000 to \$3,000 to find out what's going on. He said the worst-case scenario would be that it would have to be rebuilt.

Kern said it could be a bad mix of concrete or poor ventilation. Whatever it is they want to make sure it doesn't happen again.

When members of the audience wanted to know what the pump station looked like, Kern said it was like a large manhole, 12-15 feet in diameter with poured concrete walls.

Township attorney Rob Young supported spending the money on the tests, after getting the best quote.

"It's cement, it's underground, there's a high water table – a lot of different things," Young said. "As they always say it's location, location, location."

In other business at the June 12 meeting, the board:

- Approved an emergency ordinance outlawing the use, trafficking, and sale of Synthetic Marijuana and Dangerous Products, which is printed in full in today's *Independent*. The printing puts the law into effect so it can be enforced. Police Chief Jim Pierce recently made surprise visits to merchants in the township and found no one was selling the K2, Spice, Bath Salts or other similar products;

- Approved a public hearing for July 9 for interested parties on the proposed paving of Judd Road under a Special Assessment District. Estimates of the cost will be ready for this first meeting. A second meeting will announce exact costs and construction times;

- Approved the second reading and official adoption of Ordinance 11A, Article 17, regulating grade changes;

- Approved the second reading and official adoption of Ordinance 6A, regulating

abandoned and foreclosed properties;

- Approve the first reading of Ordinance #110, regulating Outdoor Furnaces;
- Approved Resolution 2012-06, setting Development Fees;

- Approved paying \$10,000 to Southern Michigan Information Alliance, for administration and repair/replacement deposit for the internet service for police information from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Twelve units of government are served by the agreement;

- Approved extending the lease agreement with the Guidance Center until July 31, 2014 for use of part of the Community Center for Head Start classes;

- Approved purchase of a Kubota tractor from Carleton Supply for \$21,599 and also adding the hydrostatic transmission for \$1,450 more, making a total of \$23,049. Carleton Supply gave the township \$7,500 for turning in the old tractor. When asked why they didn't buy an American-made tractor, Drews replied that every tractor sold in the US is made overseas now, except for the 100 hp or more John Deere. "There's no such thing as a Ford Tractor any more";

- Approved paying warrants totaling \$1,161,164.83;

- Approved the minutes of the June 3 Firefighters Meeting, which included the information that the township board of trustees will allow use of the fire station for union meetings and to post announcements;

- Heard Supervisor Vawters announce the Sumpter Progressive Civic League is having another Casino Day Trip on June 23 to Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek as a fund raiser. To reserve a seat call Jackie Greene at 313-477-5906. Vawters also announced the Friends of the Library's annual Garden Walk on July 22. Volunteers are needed. For information, call Elaine Gutierrez at 734-740-3011;

- Heard Vawters report that as of June 11, under the Blight and Noxious Weed Ordinance, there were 33 original weed cases. Seven were closed with grass cut by the township, 14 were closed with grass cut by the owner, and 12 remain open. There were 21 original blight cases, with six closed and 15 pending. There were zero tickets written, since the township is aiming for compliance not punishment;

- Heard Trustee Alan Bates report that the Water Quality Report was published the week before and the township water passes all the guidelines set by the EPA. He also report that Sherwood Pond was recently tested and found acceptable for swimming;

- Heard Deputy Treasurer Karen Armatis announce that Parks and Recreation saw the most successful Sumpter Country Festival in many years, if not ever;

- Heard Jimmy Long say he wants to have an appreciation day for fire and police personnel in the tri-community. He asked that the \$75 fee to use the Community Center be reduced to \$35. Supervisor Johnny Vawters said they can't start reducing the fees for certain events, but if he has trouble meeting the \$75 fee, board members will chip in;

- Heard resident Mary Ban comment on the redrawing of political district lines and she said she hopes the new district that Sumpter is in will pay attention to Sumpter. She also commented briefly on plans for the district library, noting, "I've talked to so many people who are infuriated..." Ban also said it was appalling that the Van Buren School District plans to tear down Elwell Elementary School and that it is tearing down the high school;

- Heard Trustee Peggy Morgan say that the township had asked the school district if it could have the Elwell play equipment for township parks and it was told the district plans to move it to other schools. Ban said the PTO and other Sumpter parents financed that equipment. Ban said the school board "disrespects the citizens and officials" of Sumpter Township;

- In response to another question by Ban, Supervisor Vawters said two different people have expressed an interest in the former county medical building now owned by the township. One use was a proposed dialysis center and another a medical center;

- Heard Marty Kalasz tell the board that the mirror behind the bar at the PNA Hall has been painted over and it should have been preserved. He said the painting, which featured dancers in traditional Polish dress, was done in 1959 and signed by the artist and should have been preserved. "My parents helped pay for preservation of the hall ... You don't paint over a Rembrandt ... It was the history of Sumpter," Kalasz said. Trustee Peggy Morgan said people were taping things over the painting and it pulled off the paint. She said it was being destroyed, so they took a good picture of it which will be hung in the hall; and

- Heard Sumpter Fire Chief Les Powell publicly thank Supervisor Vawters for allowing Powell to represent the township at the Memorial Day service in Belleville. Vawters replied, "It was really nice of you to thank me."

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Sumpter Planners to consider site plan for Wolverine Power

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative that owns the power plant on Rawsonville Road wants to build a "weather structure" and its plans will be on the agenda of the 7 p.m., July 12, meeting of the Sumpter Township Planning Commission.

At the planning commission's June 14 meeting, Deputy Clerk Esther Hurst, who takes commission minutes, explained that the structure Wolverine wants to build consists of a roof with supports and no sides.

It will eliminate the water that has been collecting on top of the transformers, she said, adding electricity and water don't mix.

Wolverine has been advised it has to get the site plan approved by the planning commission before proceeding.

Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative is the township's largest taxpayer. In spring 2010 Wolverine bought the FirstEnergy Generation 340 megawatt peaking power plant on Rawsonville Road. In 2010, Wolverine appealed its property assessment and won.

Almost all of the \$3.5 million in property tax Wolverine paid went to the Lincoln School District, along with portions of that total to the zoo, Wayne County Community College, the jail and other entities, along with a small amount to Sumpter, according to the township's financial officer James Glahn.

The state reduced the Wolverine assessment from \$71 million to \$68 million and all the extra tax it paid to the various entities had to be paid back. Sumpter had to refund close to \$90,000 (which it had set aside in case Wolverine won its appeal). Also, Wolverine's taxes for 2010 and 2011 were lowered, as well, and Sumpter is seeing a decrease.

Most of the June 14 meeting was devoted to a review of proposed zoning ordinance changes, as presented by planning consultant Laura Kreps of Carlisle Wortman.

The board discussed ordinances on:

- **Ponds** – with the requirement for a lifesaving station, which could be just a board in the ground with a life preserve

on it. Kreps said ponds have to follow regulations for swimming pools, which include a four-foot fence around them;

- **Animals** – with the generally accepted practices of the Department of Agriculture as a guideline for keeping animals. The commission wanted to keep 3 acres minimum for animals in the Agriculture zoning. There was discussion on the problem with chickens going into other yards and bothering neighbors on Judd and how two bunnies at Easter can turn into a thousand by Thanksgiving. Kreps said if a property owner invokes the Right to Farm Act, he can pretty much do whatever he wants and he comes under state jurisdiction;

- **Riding Stables** – with a minimum of 10 acres for a commercial operation. "If you're collecting boarding fees, you're commercial," Kreps said;

- **Roadside Produce Stands and Markets** – with only one per farm and the necessity of having parking that isn't in the road right of way and a temporary use permit from the township with annual inspections.

"Our building inspector refuses to inspect ponds or check the depth of graves. What makes you think he would do this?" asked Clerk Clarence Hoffman, referring to the annual inspections of produce stands.

"He works for you. If he won't do what the township board wants..." she said, punctuating her statement with a thumbs out gesture.

"You need to fire him," agreed Commission Chairperson Jane Stalmack.

Getting back to the roadside stands, Kreps said, "You're never going to stop people from parking in the right of way." She added people want to drive up quickly and grab 12 ears of corn.

She said, hopefully, the new ordinances will be in effect and letters can be sent out informing stand operators of the yearly permit needed, inspections, and parking out of the right of way.

Clerk Hoffman said the zoning ordinances are supposed to be overseen by a "zoning administrator" and the township doesn't have one.

Kreps said the township needs to specify who would be zoning administrator to

accept applications, etc.

"It's a thankless, important job. It's gotta be done," Kreps said.

- **Rooming and Boarding Houses**

– since because of the economy more and more single family homes are now housing more than one family and renting out rooms. Commissioner Jim Clark explained that a rooming house provides rooms and a boarding house also provides food;

- **Salvage Yards** – which must have a minimum size lot of 10 acres, be enclosed and out of view and have an Incident Protection Plan. The commission discussed several small operations that have cars sitting around; and

- **Seasonal Items for Sale** – which would have the same regulations as roadside stands.

Stalmack said at the rate they're going the commission could be through the review of the proposed ordinances and updates by October.

The board voted unanimously to follow Kreps' recommendation to pull from current action by the township board any zoning ordinances or amendments on land use, which need a public hearing before a vote on adoption.

Kreps informed the commission that the township has asked her to look at updating engineering fees, so she will also be working on that.

Eight of the nine members of the board were present for the meeting, with only the

ailing Tyrone Borden absent.

Sumpter: All properties helped no longer need floodplain insurance

At the June 12 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, Supervisor Johnny Vawters issued an update on the properties that had been listed in the new FEMA floodplain maps.

Sumpter had held a special meeting in April to inform residents of the details of the FEMA maps and to offer the help of its consulting engineers, Hennessey, in dealing with FEMA and mortgage holders.

Residents who got letters from their mortgage holders were told they had to carry flood insurance now because of the new maps. Sumpter Township is a part of the National Flood Insurance Program, so reduced insurance rates were available.

On June 12, Vawters reported owners of 79 properties originally signed up for help through the township. Then 12 of those cancelled for various reasons, mainly because they didn't carry mortgages and therefore the costly flood insurance wasn't required.

Vawters said 27 LOMAs (Letters of Map Amendment) were issued and approved by FEMA.

(continued on page 13)

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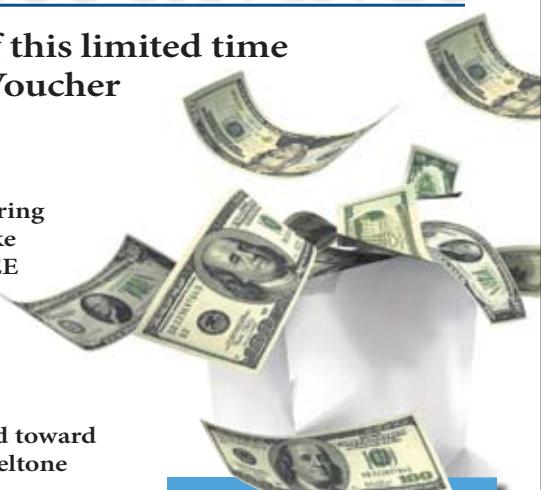
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VBT Board wrestles with flood insurance in special session May 21

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees spent two hours in a workshop on May 21 wrestling with a proposal to join the National Flood Insurance Program and trying to decide what to do to help township residents being forced to buy expensive flood insurance.

They were moved by the situation described by Marie Krouse who says she will be forced into foreclosure by the \$900 per month being added to her mortgage by Chase bank which insists she needs flood insurance and needs to add the hefty payments for the next two months.

Krouse tearfully described her efforts to reach someone at the bank who will listen to her say her mortgage has no provision for mandatory flood insurance and VBT is not participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, which should not allow them to force the insurance on her mortgage.

But, she said, no one will take her calls. Her deadline was within a few days of the meeting and she would have to provide insurance or be slapped with the costly insurance provided by the bank.

Trustee Jeff Jahr, an attorney, told her to write letters and send them by certified mail. He said if she writes letter after letter and they don't respond, at least the letters will be Exhibits A through F in court when her foreclosure is being considered.

Jahr also stated the township should provide a standard letter for residents that states Van Buren Township is not a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program.

After a long discussion, Director of Planning and Economic Development Terry Carroll was asked to find out how

much insurance is being required by the mortgage lenders for local properties in the flood plain and the cost difference between flood insurance on the open market and NFIP insurance subsidized by the federal government.

The board also wanted a standard letter drawn up that states VBT is not in the NFIP. Board members also agreed the Supervisor should send letters to the township's federal elected representatives: Congressman Dingell and Senators Stabenow and Levin.

The board also urged Carroll and engineering consultant David Nummer to keep pushing the state to get the needed base floodplain numbers so residents can appeal.

Trustee Jahr showed exasperation with the new FEMA floodplain map, which is clearly wrong for the properties around the lake -- including his.

He pointed out that those who live around the lake cannot own lower than the 655' level because that is what the lake level is, yet the floodplain is supposed to be 653' and the property owners are supposed to be in that plain -- which is impossible.

The township is considering a series of LOMARs for the properties around the lake to appeal that erroneous floodplain line.

Realtor Angela Nettro said the whole community is affected by the flood plain designation. She said there are 538 township people in the flood zone and more than 20,000 residents in the township.

"The other residents do not want to be labeled a flood zone township," Nettro said, pointing out this will devalue properties.

Nettro said it sounds like FEMA is the culprit here and maybe a class action suit should be started.

"Somebody needs to attack the source," she said, adding either they had terrible surveyors or, "there was a purpose to it."

(continued on page 14)

Sumpter & FEMA

(continued from page 12)

An additional 35 applications for LOMAs were submitted to FEMA and are pending approval.

"All are expected to be approved," Vawters said.

He explained that one out of every four applications are being audited by FEMA, thereby slowing the process a bit.

Vawters said seven more properties have recently signed up and the LOMAs are not quite finished, but these also are expected to be approved.

"So, it appears that ALL the properties that signed up with us should be exempt from having to carry flood insurance, thereby saving our residents \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year [per property] in insurance costs," Vawters said.

-- Rosemary K. Oztman, editor

VBT & FEMA

(continued from page 13)

Also, she advised Krouse that by law the bank cannot change the language of an existing mortgage.

Carroll said the benefits of belonging to the National Flood Insurance Plan were immediate access to subsidized insurance and federal disaster relief, if that ever becomes necessary.

The downside, he said, were the local costs, since the township would have to add staff to handle the flood plain management and property owners in a flood zone would be forced to buy insurance even if their loan documents didn't require it.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said she thought the township should not jump on the NFIP. She said joining the program brings added expense and, "I think it opens up to worse things over the years."

At several meetings, Trustee Jahr has asked for a written plan on how the township is going to handle this problem and help the citizens, but he rejected

paperwork presented by Carroll who said it was the plan.

All the people who were in the floodplain were to get letters from the township offering to help get LOMAs (letters of map amendments) at a reduced rate using township engineers to get them out of the floodplain.

Reportedly, Krouse didn't wait for her letter and went in to pay the township to get started on her LOMA.

As of last Friday, others report they have yet to get their letters.

VBT Police investigate breaking & entering of Woodlands' shed

Van Buren Township police are investigating the breaking and entering of a storage shed at Woodland Meadows golf course the night of May 28-29. Lt. Ernie Thornsby said two metal racks, valued at \$500 each, were stolen, and the crime appears to be related to metal scrappers.



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

The Belleville High School Marching Band is always a favorite in local parades. They brought lots of applause in Saturday's parade.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman
The three clerks from the Tri-Community were on hand during Strawberry Festival to register voters from anywhere in Michigan. From left is Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright, City of Belleville Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Long, and Sumpter Township Clerk Clarence Hoffman. The three are looking for a large turnout in the August Primary and November General elections.

Belleville Community Band kicks off summer concert series on Sunday, June 24

The Belleville Community Band will launch its summer concert series this Sunday, June 24, at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church on Charles Street in Belleville. Free concerts also will take place July 13, at 7 p.m. at Van Buren Park, and July 29, at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist.

Steven King & the Dittlies kick off Concert Lakeside

The first in a series of free concerts gets underway at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21, at Horizon Park on High Street in the City of Belleville. The 8-week concert series, which is put on by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts with support from local businesses, will move inside the First United Methodist Church on Charles Street in case of rain.

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Widow's jewelry collection stolen from Robbe Road home

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Sunday, June 3, a Van Buren Township resident decided to take her friend up on an invitation to check out the new casino in Toledo. She left her Robbe Road home about 12:55 p.m.

When she returned home around 9:10 p.m., she noticed her bedroom and other rooms had been ransacked and her large collection of jewelry was gone, according to VBT Police Captain Gregory Laurain.

While she was at the casino, her neighbor had called her cell phone at 2:18 p.m. to tell her that the side door of her house was open and she asked him to go over and lock it. She said he reported it was locked, but not pushed shut, so he pushed it shut.

Later, when the theft was discovered, her neighbor told her and police that there was a suspicious young man walking down her driveway at about 2 p.m. He was described as a white male in his 20s, 5'10" and slim build, carrying a white sack and clipboard.

The police report said there was no sign of forcible entry to her home and all doors and windows were locked.

The woman said she never uses that side door and you have to push it real hard for it to latch.

She said neighbors report the young man, who hadn't shaved in a few days, walked the whole street, telling some he was looking for his lost dog. He reportedly walked into a neighbor's occupied house and told her he was looking for his dog.

Neighbors reported he stopped going door to door after he left her house and got into a red, compact car that headed north on Haggerty Road. A neighbor followed the car, but then lost it.

He was wearing a white shirt and dark pants.

"When I got home, my heart was broken,"

the 70-year-old woman said. She explained she has always loved fine jewelry and has been collecting pieces since she was 10 years old.

She said thousands and thousands of dollars worth of jewelry are gone and many of them are unique pieces. She is still trying to make a list of the loss for the insurance company, but she told police there were at least 50 pairs of earrings, at least 50 rings (some custom made), a wedding band, her grandmother's antique watch, and about 15 necklaces.

She said she usually wears three rings, but for some reason didn't wear any rings the day she went to the casino. She generally would wear her gold head of David ring and a diamond pinkie ring. All gone now.

She only wore her ivory earrings that day.

The widow said for years she had her jewelry scattered around the house because she enjoyed looking at it. Recently, she got an antique toolbox and made it into a large jewelry box and put all her precious jewelry into it. Now it is empty.

Her father would get hand-crafted gold rings for her mother and the two daughters. Her husband bought her lots of gold chains.

"Every memory I have is gone," she said.

She believes the thieves will sell all the gold, but she asks them if they don't want her pieces of costume jewelry to put them in a bag and drop it off for her.

The woman now has an ADT security system and she wants to warn the public to be aware of the theft and to make sure everything is locked up on their homes.

She also is very thankful for the neighbor who watches over her and her home.



Belleville Council for the Arts Classic Car Show & Tea is Saturday

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts Classic Car Show and Tea event is scheduled for this Saturday, June 23, from noon to 5 p.m. at Victory Park.

There will be many types of classic cars to enjoy, along with tea and an auction.

While the viewing of the cars is free,

tickets are \$5 for adults taking part in the tea event.

The event was to have taken place earlier this month but was cancelled because of bad weather.

Proceeds from the event will go toward BACA's new building fund.

"Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen."

Mark Twain

BELIEVE IN BELLEVILLE

Shop & Dine
Downtown,
Support Local Businesses

SUMMER FAMILY FUN!

MUSIC LAKESIDE THURSDAYS 7pm starts This Week - JUNE 21

CRUISIN' THE BAYOU CLASSIC CAR SHOW MONDAYS 6-9PM

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT DISTRICT LIBRARY JUNE 20 - JULY 25

VISIT THE CIVIL WAR AT BELLEVILLE AREA MUSEUM Mon-Thurs, OPEN LATE TUES

ARTAFFAIR ON MAIN JULY 28-29

GARDEN WALK AND MARKETPLACE A DISTRICT LIBRARY BENEFIT JULY 22

ANNUAL BRIDGEWALK AND TASTE OF BELLEVILLE AUGUST 16

CITY WIDE YARD SALE AUGUST 25-26

SHOP AND DINE LOCAL!
www.buyitinbelleville.com

Downtown Development Authority

The Sky's the Limit!

New friends _ Amazing experiments _ Wild games
Lip-smacking snacks _ Surprising adventures _ Incredible music

Faith Assembly Church of Belleville

Invites Children to SKY Vacation Bible School:
EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD (Mark 10:27)

Sky is for kids ages 4 to 12 and runs June 18th to June 22nd each day. The fun lasts from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Register online today:
<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/faithassemblybell>

SUMPTER AUTO
50 South St.
BELLEVILLE
734-699-7450
Hours: Monday-Friday 8-6
Saturday 10-2

\$10 SET OF WIPER BLADES INSTALLED
(Most Cars) + Taxes

WITH COUPON • SUMPTER AUTO COUPON EXPIRES 7-30-12 BAI

\$20 OFF ALL REPAIRS OVER \$100

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VETERAN'S OIL LUBE (734) 697-4040

\$3 OFF REGULAR OIL CHANGE	\$5 OFF PREMIUM OIL CHANGE
Up to 5 Quarts Oil.	

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Custom Painting Frame Work

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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
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WE PAY UP TO \$1000 TOWARD YOUR DEDUCTABLE!
734-858-4401

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS HOUSING REHABILITATION SERVICES

The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI is requesting proposals for the operation of the Van Buren Township Housing Rehabilitation Program. Request for Proposals and bid forms are available at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 7:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. Bids will be received until 9:00 a.m. EST, Wednesday, July 18, 2011, and should be submitted to the Clerk's office. Bids may be submitted by U.S. Mail, personal service, or courier service, and no bids submitted by facsimile or electronically will be accepted. The bids will be publicly opened following the bid deadline. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and is not required to accept the low bid. The Township is an equal opportunity contractor, which does not discriminate based on race, sex, creed, or physical ability. If you have any questions regarding the bid specifications, please contact Development Services at (734) 699-8913.

Published: June 21, 2012

“Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising.”
Mark Twain

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The public is invited to tomorrow's grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at **Sweet Chateau** on Main Street in the former location of **Chesley Odom Design**. The **Belleville Chamber of Commerce** will cut the ribbon at 12 noon with owners **Victoria Thompson** and **Mary Rice** and the celebration will go on all day. Congratulations!

Jimmy Long of Sumpter is putting together an **Appreciation Day for Sumpter Township Public Safety** personnel on Saturday, June 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **Sumpter Fairgrounds**. Long would also like to put a call out to Belleville and Van Buren Police and Fire personnel and invite them as well. Long will be

Fashion Bug Manager Vanessa McKenzie will be holding a **Support Our Troops** event on June 30 at their store in the **Lakewood Shopping Plaza**. There will be a table set up for customers to write letters to men and women overseas and an area where customers can donate items to be shipped to the soldiers. Make a donation and Fashion Bug will give you a discount coupon to be used in the store. For info, call (734) 483-1075.

Dr. Kelley Connors-Johnson and **Belleville Bariatrics** are re-locating her practice across the street from us in the former building of the View newspaper. Doc, feel free to practice your saxophone playing anytime. Dr. Johnson and her guitar-playing husband Keith are founders of the local band--**Machine Gun Kelley**. Welcome to our neighborhood!

The **Romulus Historical Society's Annual Flea Market** is this Saturday, June 23, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **Romulus Historical Park** on Hunt Street. Setups are still available for \$15 each and sellers are asked to bring their own tables. Call **Cathy Morse** at (734) 941-6361 for info.

Marti's Gift Gallery in Belleville on East Huron River Drive is offering 35% off all baby items. You can get 25% off one item in the store with their colored ad in today's paper. Marti's has a great selection of gifts for everyone, including greeting cards, candles, music boxes, home décor, and unique items honoring our military and armed forces. Call (734) 699-GIFT.

Happy 5th Anniversary of doing business in Belleville to **John Chapman** of **Sumpter Auto Repair and Veteran's Oil Change** at 5 points.

4 Our Daughters Natural Hair Creations on Sumpter Road in the Secretary of State Plaza is holding a grand opening celebration this Saturday, June 23, with food, fun and good times. Call owner **Wendy Harmon** at (734) 252-6511.

Our **Show Your Stripes** advertising promotion continues through July 5. Simply double the size of your display ad (or larger) for 4 weeks or more, you'll get free color. If you're not a current advertiser, but thinking about it, simply advertise in Belleville's real hometown newspaper for 2 months in color and get your third month of color for free. For details call me at (734) 699-9020.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

Telephone number:

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP CLERK
46425 TYLER RD.
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MI 48111
734.699.8909

Qualifications for Registration

1. Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
2. Resident of Van Buren Township for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

Note:

A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the August 7, 2012 Election is Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.



Sumpter Township Public Notice

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE NO 111

SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

An Emergency Ordinance to prohibit the possession and use of, and trafficking in, synthetic marijuana and other products or materials that are in a form that allows for human consumption by inhalation of smoke or vapors, ingestion, injection or supposition, and that contain chemical substance, compounds, or agents that cause or may cause an intoxicating, narcotic, stimulant, depressant, and/or hallucinogenic effect and an imminent threat to the safety of persons that consume such products or materials and/or persons they come in contact with.

THE TOWNSHIP OF SUMPTER ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS, INTENT AND PURPOSE.

- (a) The township finds that synthetic marijuana, consisting of plant or other material treated with chemicals or other substances that have not been approved for human consumptions, is being marketed and sold as herbal incense and is being used in the same manner and for the same purposes as marijuana, with that use having become increasingly popular, particularly among teens and young adults.
- (b) The township further finds based on information and reports from poison control centers, hospitals, emergency room doctors, and police agencies that individuals who use synthetic marijuana experience dangerous side effects including convulsions, tremors, seizures, hallucinations, unconsciousness, anxiety attacks, dangerously elevated heart rates, increased blood pressure, vomiting, and disorientation, evidencing that these herbal incense products are harmful if consumed and present an imminent and significant public health danger to persons consuming such products and other persons coming in contact with them.
- (c) The township further finds that, notwithstanding the high potential for abuse, and lack of any accepted medical use, the ability of the state to prohibit all forms of synthetic marijuana as a controlled substance has been frustrated due to the changing nature of the chemicals used in the manufacturing process.
- (d) The township further finds that in addition to synthetic marijuana, there may be other products or materials containing chemicals or substances, that while not approved for human consumption, are or may be marketed and sold in a form that allows for such consumption and which, upon consumption, may result in the same serious side effects and public health dangers as synthetic marijuana.
- (e) Based on these findings, this ordinance is adopted for the purpose and with the intent to protect the public health and safety of the township and its residents from the threat posed by the availability and use of synthetic marijuana and other dangerous products by prohibiting persons from trafficking in, possessing, and using them in the township.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS AND ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.

As uses in this division, the following words and phrases have the meanings indicated.

Act means the controlled substances provisions in Article 7 of the Public Health Code, Public Act No. 368 of 1978, MCL 333.7101 to MCL 333.7545, as amended, which is hereby adopted by reference as part of this division.

Chemical agent means a chemical or organic compound, substance, or agent that is not made, intended and approved for consumption by humans.

Consumable product or material means a product or material, that regardless of packaging disclaimers or disclosures that it is not for human consumption or use, is in a form that readily allows for human consumption by inhalation, ingestion, injection, or application, through means including but not limited to smoking, or ingestion by mouth with or without mixing with food or drink.

Controlled substance means a substance included as a controlled substance in schedules 1 through 5 of the Act or a substance temporarily scheduled or rescheduled as controlled substance as provided in the Act.

Controlled substance analogue has the same meaning as defined in the Act, which is a substance, the chemical structure of which is substantially similar to that of a controlled substance in schedules 1 and 2 of the Act.

Dangerous product means a consumable product or material containing a dangerous substance.

Dangerous substance means: (i) a chemical agent that under section 2451 of the Acts, MCL 333.2451, has been determined by the local health officer to be or present an imminent danger to the health or lives of humans when present in a consumable product or material; and, (ii) a chemical agent in a consumable product or material unless that chemical agent is conspicuously identified and described in writing on the packaging of the product, and has not been previously determined by the city or other governmental authority to be or present an imminent danger to the health or lives of humans when present in that type of consumable product or material.

Synthetic cannabinoid means a chemical compound, substance or agent identified in the Synthetic

Cannabinoid Appendix that is part of this division, as amended from time to time by Resolution of the City Commission.

Synthetic marijuana means a consumable product or material that contains a synthetic cannabinoid or other dangerous substance, which on the date this division was added to the Code, included herb and herbal incense products marketed and most commonly known as K-2 and Spice.

Traffic and trafficking means to manufacture, distribute, dispense, sell, transfer, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, dispense, sell, or transfer.

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID APPENDIX

Synthetic Cannabinoids include all the following chemical compounds, substances and agents.

“AM Cannabinoids” being synthetic chemical compounds, substances or agents created by Alexandros Makriyannis or his research group and identified as AM-087; AM-251; AM-281; AM-356; AM-374; AM-381; AM-404; AM-411; AM-630; AM-661; AM-678; AM-679; AM-694; AM-855; AM-881; AM-883; AM-905; AM-906; AM-919; AM-926; AM-938; AM-1116; AM-1172; AM-1220; AM-1221; AM-1235; AM-1241; AM-1248; AM-2201; AM-2212; AM-2213; AM-2232; AM-2233; AM-2102; AM-4030; and other substances with a structure and effect that is substantially similar to those listed. The term shall not include synthetic cannabinoids that require a prescription, are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and are dispensed in accordance with state and federal law.

“CP Cannabinoids” being synthetic chemical compounds, substances or agents identified as CP-47, 297; (C6)-CP-47, 497; (C7)-CP-47, 497; (C8)-CP-47, 497; (C9)-CP-47, 297; CP-50, 556-1; CP-55, 244; CP-55, 940; CP-945, 598; and other substances with a structure and effect that is substantially similar to those listed. The term shall not include synthetic cannabinoids that require a prescription, are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and are dispensed in accordance with state and federal law.

“HU Cannabinoids” being synthetic chemical compounds, substances or agents synthesized at the Hebrew University and identified as HU-210; HU-211; HU-243; HU-308; HU-320; HU-331; HU-336; HU-345; and other substances with a structure and effect that is substantially similar to those listed. The term shall not include synthetic cannabinoids that require a prescription, are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and are dispensed in accordance with state and federal law.

“JWH Cannabinoids” being synthetic chemical compounds, substances or agents created by John W. Huffman or his research group and identified as JWH-007; JWH-015; JWH-018; JWH-019; JWH-030; JWH-047; JWH-048; JWH-051; JWH-057; JWH-073; JWH-081; JWH-098; JWH-116; JWH-120; JWH-122; JWH-133; JWH-139; JWH-147; JWH-148; JWH-149; JWH-161; JWH-164; JWH-166; JWH-167; JWH-171; JWH-175; JWH-176; JWH-181; JWH-182; JWH-184; JWH-185; JWH-192; JWH-193; JWH-194; JWH-195; JWH-196; JWH-197; JWH-198; JWH-199; JWH-200; JWH-203; JWH-205; JWH-210; JWH-213; JWH-229; JWH-234; JWH-249; JWH-250; JWH-251; JWH-253; JWH-258; JWH-300; JWH-302; JWH-307; JWH-336; JWH-350; JWH-359; JWH-387; JWH-398; JWH-424; and other substances with a structure and effect that is substantially similar to those listed. The term shall not include synthetic cannabinoids that require a prescription, are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and are dispensed in accordance with state and federal law.

SECTION 3. TRAFFICKING PROHIBITIONS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to traffic, or knowingly allow trafficking on property owned or controlled by that person, in any of the following:

- (a) A consumable product or material containing a controlled substance or controlled substance analogue.
- (b) A dangerous product.
- (c) Synthetic marijuana.

SECTION 4. POSSESSION AND USE PROHIBITIONS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or use, or knowingly allow the possession and use on property owned or controlled by that person, of any of the following:

- (a) A consumable product or material containing a controlled substance or controlled substance analogue.
- (b) A dangerous product.
- (c) Synthetic marijuana.

SECTION 5. PROBABLE CAUSE EVIDENTIARY PRESUMPTION.

In recognition that the presence of a controlled substance, controlled substance analogue, synthetic cannabinoid, or dangerous substance in a consumable product or material may require laboratory testing that cannot be done at the time a violation of this division is believed to have occurred, for purposes of determining the existence of probable cause, it shall be presumed that a consumable product or material contains one or more of those substances if it is being or has been marketed or sold for a price that is substantially higher than the price at which the same quantity of a similar and comparable product or material that is known to not contain such substances can be purchased.

SECTION 6. PENALTIES.

The sanction for a violation of this division shall be as a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not

(continued on page 19)



Sumpter Township Public Notice



(continued from page 18)

more than \$500.00 and/or imprisonment for not more than 90 days.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY

Should any section, subdivision, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, be declared by the Courts to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part as invalidated.

SECTION 8. EMERGENCY

This Ordinance is adopted as an Emergency Ordinance to address the imminent danger and threat to the health and lives of persons in the township from the availability and use of the substances being prohibited, which the Township Board finds to be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health and safety.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that this Ordinance was introduced and adopted as an Emergency Ordinance by the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at a meeting duly called and held on June 12, 2012.

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., Clerk
Publish: June 21, 2012

Date



Sumpter Township Public Notice



ORDINANCE NO: 11A

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 11 ARTICLE 17.00 WHICH IS AN ORDINANCE TO ADDRESS GENRAL BUILDING PROVISIONS AND SITE GRADES.

ARTICLE 1

Sec. 1 Purpose. The purpose of this amendment is to modify the requirements regarding a roof pitch to accessory buildings in both agriculture and residential zoned properties.

Sec. 2 Conflict with State Law. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed in such a manner as to conflict with any existing law of the State of Michigan or any other regulatory authority having jurisdiction in the matters referred to herein.

ARTICLE 2.

Section 17.04 Site grade is amended as follows:

Any change in grade shall require submittal of a building permit or grade change permit application to the building department and a building permit or grade change permit issued by the building inspector prior to the commencement of any grade change activity on any property within the Township. Changes in grade that is proposed for any parcel where a building permit has not been issued shall comply with the standards of this ordinance in addition to Section 19.04 (B) Dumping of soil, sand and clay materials.

The following standards shall apply to grade changes:

1. Buildings requiring yard space shall be at such an elevation that a finished grade shall be maintained to cause the flow of surface water to run away from the walls of the building. This shall not prevent the grading of a yard space to provide sunken or terraced areas, provided proper means are constructed and maintained to prevent surface water runoff from flowing towards buildings or onto adjacent properties.
2. The location, construction and finished grade elevations of driveways shall be determined so as to preclude surface water runoff from flowing to adjacent properties or from blocking the natural flow of surface water. Driveways shall be located at least eight (8) feet from the side property and easement line in AG and RF zoning districts.
3. When a new building is constructed on a vacant parcel between or next to existing buildings, the building inspector shall use the existing established finished grade or the minimum established grade to determine the proper grade around the new building. The yard around the new building shall be graded to meet existing codes and to preclude surface water runoff from flowing onto the adjacent properties.
4. All grading on a parcel shall not disrupt the natural flow of surface water through or across the parcel of land and there shall be no additional flow of water onto adjoining lands. All grades shall be established and maintained so that surface water runoff damage does not occur to adjoining properties before, during, or after site grading.
5. All dwellings shall be so constructed so that the finish floor elevation of the first floor shall not be greater than forty-eight (48) inches above existing grade or no greater than twelve (12) inches above the top of a septic tank properly set and permitted by the Wayne County Environmental Health Department whichever is greater.
6. The location of all sump discharges shall be shown on a plot plan approved by the building inspector. The discharge point shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet and no more than twenty (20) feet from the foundation of the building. Sump water shall not be discharged so as to flow onto adjacent parcels.
7. Any materials brought onto a parcel to change the grade shall be clean, inert and free of debris. The building inspector shall approve all materials prior to their placement on

the parcel.

8. A grading plan must be prepared and attached to the grade change permit application for any grade change activities involving the placement of greater than twenty (20) cubic yards of fill. Grade change activities requiring fill of greater than twenty (20) cubic yards and less than fifty (50) cubic yards shall be prepared by the property owner, a licensed builder, a professional engineer or registered land surveyor. For grade change activities requiring greater than fifty (50) cubic yards, the grading plan must be stamped and signed by a licensed professional engineer or registered professional land surveyor. All grading plans must, at a minimum, provide the following information:

- a. Existing grades of the building site and areas of proposed grade change, the center line of adjacent road and the front, side and rear property lines.
- b. Proposed grades of the building site and areas of proposed grade change, the first floor elevation of all existing and proposed buildings, the first floor elevation of all existing buildings within 100 feet of the property line, existing grades of adjacent property within 100 feet of the property line, and the elevation of the top of the septic tank, if applicable.
- c. Proposed drainage patterns with minimum one (1) foot contours, showing connections to existing drainage facilities such as ditches, swales, county drains and natural watercourses. Connections to regulated drainage facilities shall require the review and approval of the jurisdictional authority prior to Township approval.
- d. Provide parcel number, legal description and total acreage of parcel and parcel numbers and total acreages of adjoining properties.
- e. A scale of no less than one (1) inch equals twenty (20) feet, a north arrow and adjacent street names.

Finished grades shall adhere to the following criteria:

- a. Front Yard – maximum slope shall not exceed a 5:1 ratio as measured from the front of the dwelling to the front property line.
- b. Side Yard – maximum slope shall not exceed a 4:1 ratio as measured from the side of the dwelling to the side property line.
- c. Rear Yard – Blend with natural topography to provide positive drainage away from the dwelling.
- d. Swales must be provided alongside lot lines to prevent surface water runoff onto adjacent properties.

The building inspector may request the Township Engineer to review the proposed and final grades. The applicant and permit holder shall pay all engineer review fees prior to final approval. The building inspector shall approve the final finish grades and may require an as-built grading plan completed and certified by a licensed professional engineer or registered professional land surveyor prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

ARTICLE 3.

Saving clause. Nothing in this Ordinance hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court or administrative body, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any Act or Ordinance hereby amended or repealed by this Ordinance; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 4.

Severability. Should any word, sentence, phrase, or any portion of this Ordinance be held in a manner invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction or by any state agency having authority to do so for any reason whatsoever, such holdings shall be construed and limited to such word, sentence, phrase or any portion of this Ordinance held to be so invalid and shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining words, sentences, phrases or portions of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 5.

Conflicting Ordinances. All prior existing ordinances adopted by the Township of Sumpter inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, hereby expressly repealed.

ARTICLE 6.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication.

ARTICLE 7.

This ordinance shall be recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Code of Ordinances upon adoption. This ordinance shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Township Supervisor and the Township Clerk. A true copy of the complete ordinance can be inspected at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111.

ARTICLE 8.

This Ordinance is hereby adopted by the Township of Sumpter, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a regular Board meeting held on June 12, 2012.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Ordinance was passed by the Township Board of Trustees of the Township of Sumpter at a regular Township Board Meeting held in the Township of Sumpter on the 12th day of June 2012.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
Sumpter Township Clerk

I further certify that the foregoing was published in Belleville Area Independent, a newspaper of general circulation in the Township of Sumpter, on the 21st day of June, 2012.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
Sumpter Township Clerk



Sumpter Township Public Notice



ORDINANCE NO: 6A

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 6-92 WHICH IS AN ORDINANCE TO ADDRESS GENRAL BUILDING PROVISIONS AND FOR THE REGULATION OF VACANT, ABANDONED AND FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

ARTICLE I.

Section 6-92. Regulation of Vacant, Abandoned and foreclosed Properties

A. Purpose. The purpose of this amendment is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens by preventing blight, protecting property values and neighborhood integrity, avoiding the creation and maintenance of nuisances and ensuring the safe and sanitary maintenance of dwellings, commercial and industrial buildings. Due to economic conditions, mortgage foreclosures and increased bankruptcies, many homes and buildings have become vacant and unsupervised. This has caused or may in the future cause properties to become attractive nuisances for minors and/or criminal activity. Vacant properties have a negative impact on surrounding properties and neighborhoods. Potential buyers are or may be deterred from purchasing by the presence of numerous vacant and blighted buildings and property. There is or may be an increased instance of unsecured or open doors and windows, broken water pipes, flooded basements, theft of metals and other materials, overgrowth of grass, weeds, shrubs and bushes, illegal dumping, and rat and vermin activity at vacant structures. Such neglect devalues properties and causes deterioration in neighborhoods and industrial and commercial areas. The Township also needs to be able to contact owners for utility shutoff, fire safety and police reasons is to modify the requirements regarding a roof pitch to accessory buildings in both agriculture and residential zoned properties.

B. Definitions. As used in this Section:

Code Compliance Certificate: An annual certificate issued by the Township Building Department that the structure is in compliance with all applicable State laws and Township Code requirements, including the Township's Property Maintenance Code.

Owner: Any person or entity with legal or equitable ownership or possessory interest in any residential structure. The owner shall include, but not be limited to: a bank, credit union, trustee or financial institution which is in possession (in whole or in part) of the real property, foreclosing a lien or mortgage interest in the affected property, but may or may not have legal or equitable title.

Vacant: A residential structure that remains unoccupied for a period in excess of thirty (30) days. Vacant property does not mean property that is temporarily unoccupied while the residents are away on vacation, tending to personal matters or business, or property that is not intended by the owner to be left vacant.

C. Scope. The provisions of this Section shall apply to all existing residential structures. This Section does not relieve any person from compliance with all other Township Ordinances, the State Building Code, and all other laws, rules, and regulations.

D. Evidence of Vacant Property. Evidence of vacancy shall include any condition that on its own, or combined with other conditions present, would lead a reasonable person to believe that the property is vacant. Such conditions include, but are not limited to:

1. Overgrown and/or dead vegetation;
2. Accumulation of newspapers, circulars, flyers and/or mail;
3. Past due utility notices and/or disconnected utilities;
4. Accumulation of trash, junk and/or debris;
5. Boarded up windows;
6. Abandoned vehicles, auto parts or materials;
7. The absence of or continually drawn window coverings such as curtains, blinds and/or shutters;
8. The absence of furnishings and/or personal items consistent with habitation or occupancy; and
9. Statements by neighbors, delivery agents or utility agents, including Township employees, that the property is vacant.

E. Registry of Vacant Properties. There is hereby created in the township Building Department a registry of vacant residential properties.

F. Vacant Properties to be Registered Annually. Owners of real property are required to register all vacant residential properties within thirty (30) days of the vacancy and to re-register the properties annually thereafter. Residences that are vacant at the time of the enactment of this Section must register within thirty (30) days.

G. Owners Registration Form, Content. Owners who are required to register their properties pursuant to this Section shall submit a completed vacant property registration form, as provided by the Township Building Department containing the following information:

1. The name of the owner of the property;
2. Common address and tax parcel identification number of the property;
3. The date on which the property became vacant;
4. Affirmation of utility connections or disconnections;
5. Affirmation of agreement to abide by property maintenance requirements as provided in Subsection K of this Section.
6. A mailing address where mail may be sent that will be acknowledged as received by the owner. If certified mail/return receipt request is sent by the Township Building Department to the address and the mail is returned marked "refused" or "unclaimed", then such occurrence shall be prima facie proof that the owner has failed to comply with this requirement. If ordinary mail sent by the Township Building Department to the address is returned for whatever reason, then such occurrence shall be prima facie proof that the owner has failed to comply with this requirement.
7. The name of the individual responsible for the care and control of the property. Such individual may be the owner, if the owner is an individual, or may be someone other than the owner with whom he/she has contracted.
8. A current address, phone number, fax and email address (if fax and email addresses are available) where communications may be sent that will be acknowledged as received by the owner or individual responsible for the care and control of the property. If

certified mail/return receipt requested is sent to the address and the mail returned marked "refused" or "unclaimed", or if ordinary mail sent to the address is returned for whatever reason, then such occurrence shall be prima facie proof that the owner has failed to comply with this requirement.

9. Authorization for Township staff to access the exterior of the property for inspection purposes.

H. Annual Registration and Safety and Blight Inspection Fee. The annual registration and safety and blight inspection fees shall be set by the Township Board to offset the cost of processing forms, conducting the safety and blight inspection, and maintaining records. In addition, if an owner fails to register, the owner shall be assessed the added cost of the Township's expense in having to determine ownership, which may include, but is not limited to title search and legal expenses.

I. Requirement to Keep Information Current. If at any time the information contained in the registration form is no longer valid, the property owner shall within ten (10) days file a new registration form containing current information. There shall be no fee to update the current owner's information.

J. Inspections Required. Owners of vacant buildings who are required to file an owner's registration form under this Section must immediately:

1. Obtain and pay for a Township Building Department safety and blight inspection of the vacant property;
2. Obtain necessary permits;
3. Make required repairs;
4. Obtain any follow-up inspections from the Township Building Department thereafter to ensure the residence is safe, secure and maintained.
5. The owner or owner's agent shall certify by affidavit that all water, sewer, electrical, gas, HVAC, plumbing systems, roofing, structural systems, foundations, and drainage systems are sound, operational, or properly disconnected.
6. The owner or the owner's agent shall also certify by affidavit that the property is in compliance with the Township's Property Maintenance Code, and the water and sewer requirements set forth in Chapter 25 of the Township Code.

Public Nuisance Declared; Maintenance and Security Requirements.

1. It is declared a public nuisance for any owner to cause, permit, or maintain any property condition contrary to the provisions of this Section. The owner or individual responsible for the care and control of the property must adhere to the vacant property maintenance plan as contained in this Section. The owner or individual responsible for the care and control of the property shall perform regular weekly inspections of the property to assure compliance with the requirements of this section, and shall allow access to the property by the building department for the purpose of inspection and in case of emergency.
2. Vacant property shall be kept free of the following:
 - a. Weeds or grass more than six (6) inches high;
 - b. Vegetation growth between sidewalk and/or driveway flags or cracks in the pavement;
 - c. Dry brush, dead vegetation, trash, junk, debris, building materials, rodent harborage, accumulated snow on sidewalks and driveways;
 - d. Any accumulation of newspapers, circulars, flyers, and notices (except those required by federal, state or local law);
 - e. Discarded items including, but not limited to: furniture, clothing, large and small appliances, printed material, signage, containers, equipment, construction materials; and
 - f. Any illegal outside storage of vehicles.
3. Vacant property shall comply with the minimum security fencing, barrier and maintenance requirements of the construction code and the property maintenance code.
4. Vacant property shall be maintained free of graffiti, tagging or similar markings by removal or painting over with an exterior grade paint that matches the color of the exterior structure.
5. Vacant property shall be landscaped and property maintained. Landscaping includes, but is not limited to, grass, ground covers, bushes, shrubs, hedges or similar plantings, decorative rock or bark designed and maintained in an appropriate manner. Landscaping does not include weeds, gravel, broken concrete, asphalt, decomposed materials, plastic sheeting, indoor-outdoor carpet, or any similar material. Maintenance includes, but is not limited to, regular watering irrigation, cutting, pruning and mowing of landscaping and removal of all trimmings.
6. Pools, spas and other water features located on vacant property shall be kept in working order or winterized to ensure that the water remains clear and free of pollutants and debris, or drained and kept dry and free of debris, and must comply with the minimum security fencing, barrier and maintenance requirements of the construction code and the property maintenance code.
7. Vacant property shall be maintained in a secure manner so as not to be accessible to unauthorized persons. Secure manner includes, but is not limited to, the closure and locking of windows, doors (walk-through, sliding and garage), gates and any other opening of such size that it may allow a child to access the interior of the property and/or structure(s). Broken windows must be repaired or replaced within fourteen (14) days. Boarding up of open or broken windows is prohibited as a temporary measure for no longer than fourteen (14) days.
8. Utilities at a vacant property must be properly disconnected or connected and in proper working order.
9. Building appurtenances at vacant property must be securely attached so as not to cause a blighting condition, including, but not limited to, gutters, downspouts, shutters, railings, guards, steps, awnings, canopies, signs, light fixtures, and fire-escapes.
10. Detached signs and lighting systems at vacant property shall be structurally sound, and maintained so as not to cause a blighting condition, or removed.
11. Vacant property fencing and retaining walls shall be maintained structurally sound. Any

(continued on page 21)



Sumpter Township Public Notice

(continued from page 20)

fence or wall with broken or hanging components shall be repaired, straightened, or removed.

12. Perishables shall be removed from the interior of the structures located on vacant property.

L. **Open Property; Securing Fee.** Property subject to this Section that is left open and/or accessible shall be subject to entry by the Township in order to ensure that the property has not become an attractive nuisance and to ensure that the property is locked and/or secured and in compliance with the Township's Property Maintenance Code. The owner of the property subject to this Section, which property is found open or unsecured shall be responsible for paying a securing fee as set by the Township Board to offset the cost incurred by the Township in contacting the owner or management company to secure the property. If the owner and/or management company cannot be contacted or does not secure the property within a reasonable time, not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours, the owner shall be responsible for paying the cost incurred by the Township in securing the property.

M. **Reoccupation of Vacant Property; Notification to Township.** Prior to reoccupation of property that is subject to this section, the owner shall notify the Township that the property has been sold or rented, and to whom.

N. **Eviction of Personal Property.** When an eviction by court order occurs, the owner shall place on the private area of the owner's property only and not on any public area adjacent to the owner's property, a movable container of sufficient size and type, which will allow access from its side for disposal of the personal property. Any personal property not relocated from the premises shall be placed and disposed of only in the movable container. The movable container shall be removed from the owner's property within forty-eight (48) hours of its placement.

O. **Fire Damaged Property.** If an occupied building is damaged by fire, the owner has ninety (90) days from the date of the fire to apply for a permit to start construction or demolition. Failure to do so will result in the property being deemed vacant and subject to the requirements of this Section.

P. **Unpaid Fees; Assessments.** All fees hereunder that remain unpaid after fourteen (14) days written notice to the owner/management company shall be assessed against the property as a lien and placed on the tax roll.

Q. **Penalties; Municipal civil Infraction.** Except as otherwise provided, a violation of this Section shall be a municipal civil infraction subject to prosecution and penalty under MCL 42.21(3). The requirements of this Section are in addition to, and not in lieu of any other rights and remedies provided by law.

Violation of this Section shall be a municipal civil infraction and for the first offense subject to a minimum \$200.00 fine and any penalties authorized under MCL 600.8727 and /or MCL 600.8302. Second or subsequent offenses shall be subject to a minimum fine of \$400.00 and any of the penalties authorized under MCL 600.8727 and/or MCL 600.8302. Each day that a violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

ARTICLE 2.

Saving clause. Nothing in this Ordinance hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court or administrative body, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any Act or Ordinance hereby amended or repealed by this Ordinance; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 3.

Severability. Should any word, sentence, phrase, or any portion of this Ordinance be held in a manner invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction or by any state agency having authority to do so for any reason whatsoever, such holdings shall be construed and limited to such word, sentence, phrase or any portion of this Ordinance held to be so invalid and shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining words, sentences, phrases or portions of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 4.

Conflicting Ordinances. All prior existing ordinances adopted by the Township of Sumpter inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, hereby expressly repealed.

ARTICLE 5.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication.

ARTICLE 6.

This ordinance shall be recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Code of Ordinances upon adoption. This ordinance shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Township Supervisor and the Township Clerk. A true copy of the complete ordinance can be inspected at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111.

ARTICLE 7.

This Ordinance is hereby adopted by the Township of Sumpter, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a regular Board meeting held on June 12, 2012.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Ordinance was passed by the Township Board of Trustees of the Township of Sumpter at a regular Township Board Meeting held in the Township of Sumpter on the 12th day of June 2012.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
Sumpter Township Clerk

I further certify that the foregoing was published in Belleville Area Independent, a newspaper of general circulation in the Township of Sumpter, on the 21st day of June, 2012.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr. Sumpter Township Clerk

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

On Wednesday, June 27th, 2012, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1999	ACURA	4D	19UUA5640XA00319	12-11767
1996	OLDSMOBILE	4D	1G3WH52M9TF350633	12-12278
1992	BUICK	4D	2G4WB54L1N1491319	12-13859
1994	HONDA	4D	1HGCD5635RA141042	12-14115

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1995	BUICK	4D	2G4WB52L1S1499015	12-4917
2005	CHEVROLET	2D	1G1JH14F157169811	12-9953
1986	CHEVROLET	2D	1G1FP87H1GL104448	12-13194
2005	JEEP	SW	1J4HR58N45C729057	12-13633
1992	BMW	4D	WBACB3316NFE02980	12-13633
2000	FORD	4D	1FAFP53U8YG261242	12-13999
1998	CHEVROLET	PU	2GCEK19R2W1118006	12-14603
1987	TOYOTA	SW	JT4RN62D2H0152126	12-14910

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright,
Van Buren Township Clerk
Published: June, 21st, 2012

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes May 22, 2012

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Vawters at 6:30 pm showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates, Hamm and P. Morgan. Excused absence Trustee Kennedy. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approximately 19 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments on Agenda items only

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting May 8, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to accept minutes of the Parks & Recreation April 18, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Hamm, supported by J. Morgan to accept minutes of the Parks & Recreation May 9, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to accept minutes of the Planning Commission April 12, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve the warrants totaling: \$125,635.48. Roll call vote: Yes: Vawters, Hoffman, J. Morgan, Bates, Hamm & P. Morgan. Nays: None. Absent: Kennedy. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the parks & recreation report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Attorney: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the agreement with the Nature Conservancy and authorizing the attorney to draft ordinance for the outdoor furnaces and bring to the next meeting also to approve the attorney's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Supervisor: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the supervisor's report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Board Response

11. New Business:

A. Presentation by Senior Alliance a brief update

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve changes to the grade change permit and first reading of Ordinance 11A Article 17.00 as suggested by Hennessey Engineers. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Hamm, supported by J. Morgan to hold 1st of 2 public hearings to consider S.A.D. paving project for June 22, 2012 at 6pm. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to approve allowing Hennessey Engineers to proceed with Judd Road & Fenster Subdivision study for paving project S.A.D. proposal cost \$4,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve the proposal from BS & A Software to switch to property based systems.net cost of \$3,400.00 per year. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hamm to approve the first reading of ordinance regulating vacant, abandoned & foreclosed properties. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve the MTA dues for 2012-2013 in the amount of \$5,452.64. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Announcements

13. Open Floor

14. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to adjourn at 7:04 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on May 22, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Publish: June 21, 2012

VB Soccer Association to hold Summer Soccer Camp July 2-6

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

The Van Buren Soccer Association will hold a Summer Soccer Camp July 2-6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at the Wayne County Community College campus on Haggerty Road. No camp on July 4.

The cost of the camp was still being determined as the *Independent* went to press.

The camp will include three hours of soccer skills, shooting, dribbling, 1-on-1, receiving, and more, along with free lunch. The camp will also feature a fun academic

camp including culinary / nutritional awareness, Lego robotics, or forensic photography, all age appropriate.

Campers will need to be dropped off at WCCC by 9 a.m. for check in and must be picked up by 3 p.m.

Participants are asked to bring the following items: soccer ball, soccer shoes, tennis, shoes or sandals, sun screen, towel, shin guards, water bottle and a notebook with pen or pencil.

Campers must also dress for the weather. For information, call the VBSA President Phil Bongiorno at (734) 732-8649 or email philip_bongiorno@vanburensoccer.com .

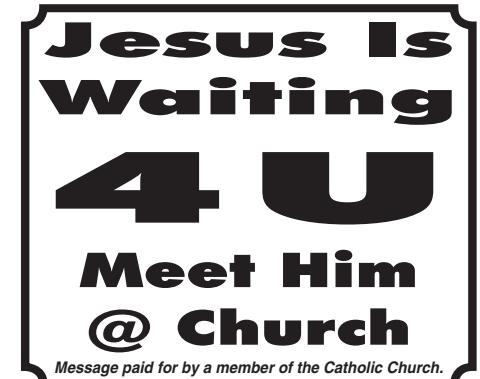
"Laws control the lesser man..."

Right conduct controls the greater one."

Mark Twain

Cole, Cole, and Moore named to Dean's List at Davenport University

GRAND RAPIDS -- Davenport University has announced that three Belleville residents have been named to the Dean's List for the winter 2012 semester. They are Bridget Cole, Samantha Cole, and Heather Moore.



Jesus Is Waiting 4 U
Meet Him @ Church

Message paid for by a member of the Catholic Church.



City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2012

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Blackburn	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Council Member Tindall	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENT

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Tindall, Second by Blackburn to approve agenda with the addition of Item 8G to add a request from Belleville Area Animal Rescue Center for a charitable gaming license.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of May 21, 2012 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Motion by Blackburn, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 12-055 to open Public Hearing at 7:35 P.M. to discuss FY2012/13 budget.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Blackburn, Second by Smith to close Public Hearing at 7:36 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Grace Baptist Church Picnic – High Street Closing

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 12-056 to approve a request from Belleville Grace Baptist Church to close High Street from behind the church down to the intersection of High, Roys, and Church Streets for their annual Fourth of July picnic on July 4, 2012 from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. FY2012/13 Fee Schedule

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 12-057 to approve the FY2012/13 fee schedule as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. FY2012/13 Budget

Motion by Blackburn, Second by Tindall to approve Resolution No. 12-058 to approve FY2012/13 budget as follows.

FUND	REVENUES	EXPENDS.
General Fund \$ 2,031,972	\$ 2,012,042	
Major Street Fund \$ 158,010	\$ 163,812	
Local Street Fund \$ 94,760	\$ 124,661	
Cemetery Fund \$ 76,100	\$ 75,112	
Sanitation Fund \$ 205,891	\$ 206,459	
Perpetual Care Fund \$ 5,000	\$ -0-	
Building Dept. Fund \$ 30,000	\$ 53,263	
Budget Stabilization Fund \$ -0	\$ -0-	
Drug Law Enforcement Fund \$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	
Public Improvement Fund \$ -0-	\$ 49,652	
Capital Equipment Fund \$ 59,853	\$ 148,146	
DDA Operating Fund \$ 399,220	\$ 438,720	
DDA Debt Service Fund \$ 443,686	\$ 443,686	

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. FY2011/12 Budget Amendments

Motion by Tindall, Second by Blackburn to approve

Resolution No. 12-059 to Approve FY2011/12 budget amendments as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Wayne County Parks Grant Agreement – Village Park Improvements

Motion by Loria, Second by Blackburn to approve

Resolution No. 12-060 to approve the agreement between the County of Wayne and City of Belleville for Village Park as presented.

ABSTAINED: Conley

AYES: Blackburn, Loria, Smith, Tindall

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED.

F. Police Reserve Ordinance

Motion by Tindall, Second by Blackburn to approve

Resolution No. 12-061 to repeal the Police Reserve Ordinance 01-018.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Belleville Area Animal Rescue Center – Charitable Gaming License

Motion by Blackburn, Second by Smith to approve

Resolution No. 12-062 to approve a request from Belleville Area Animal Rescue Center for a charitable gaming license to be able to sell raffle tickets during the Strawberry Festival from June 15th to June 17th 2012.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve Resolution No. 12-063 to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation.

Motion by Loria, Second by Blackburn to approve Resolution No. 12-064 to recess regular meeting and enter into Executive Session at 8:46 P.M. to discuss strategy in connection with specific pending litigation.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to adjourn the executive session and reconvene regular meeting at 8:57 P.M.

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve Resolution No. 12-065 motion to file recommendation in the matter of Hollis v. City of Belleville as presented by MMRMA Attorney Margaret Debler

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) to consider communication from the City Attorney which is subject to the attorney-client privilege.

Motion by Smith, Second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 12-066 to recess regular meeting and enter into Executive Session at 8:58 P.M. to discuss communication from the City Attorney which is subject to the attorney-client privilege.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene regular meeting at 9:45 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: June 18, 2012; published: June 21, 2012

C.T.S. AUTO

Cash Paid For Your Junk or

Wrecked Cars or Trucks!

If You Can't Or Don't Want To

Donate It, Call Us.

We Will Pick It Up Or You Can Drive It In For More \$. \$

16007 Pardee, Taylor, Michigan

734-282-1700

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police. For more detailed police logs, see www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Sunday, June 10:

- 0010 – assault & battery, 80 Rose Blvd.
- 0101 – noise complaint, 6243 Truman
- 1229 – disturbance, Rawsonville DNR
- 1430 – lake complaint, Belleville Lake
- 1608 – fraud, Kmart
- 1700 – operating while intoxicated, Southport
- 1927 – assault & battery, 26 Brandi
- 2105 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
- 2152 – larceny from auto, Van Buren Park

Monday, June 11:

- 0106 – missing person, 40993 Riggs Rd.
- 0902 – noise complaint, 11000 Lighthouse Dr.
- 0925 – larceny from auto, 41440 S. Bellridge Dr.
- 1059 – assist fire dept., EB I-94 west of Haggerty
- 1514 – retail fraud, Kmart
- 1544 – larceny, 84 Park Estates
- 1559 – larceny, 46755 S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1807 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, 46425 Tyler Rd., VBT
- 1920 – fraud, Walmart
- 2019 – fraud, Kmart
- 2121 – disturbance, 7114 Belle Pointe Dr.
- 2131 – fireworks, Hickory Woods
- 2136 – property damage accident, 15275 Elwell
- 2148 – assault & battery, 10702 Oak Lane
- 2157 – disorderly conduct, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
- 2200 – juvenile complaint, 13650 Country Walk
- 2244 – noise complaint, 43483 Revere Dr.
- 2309 – noise complaint, Southport
- 2327 – property damage accident, 10950 Belleville

Tuesday, June 12:

- 0012 – noise complaint, 41500 N. Bellridge Dr.
- 0158 – domestic assault, 13970 Winding Pond Dr.
- 0256 – noise complaint, 158 Aspen
- 0504 – shots fired, 15218 Elwell Rd.
- 0513 – malicious destruction of property, 51207 Sylvia Dr.
- 0546 – larceny, 45525 N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0853 – malicious destruction of property, 6591 Maurice Dr.
- 0853 – property damage accident, Elwell/W. Huron River Dr.
- 0914 – assault & battery, 7109 Westlake Circle
- 0930 – breaking & entering, 14 Oak Blvd.
- 1023 – intimidation threat, 10798 Belleville Rd.
- 1316 – trespassing, 8107 Kirkridge Park Dr.
- 1630 – trespassing, 8070 Kirkridge Park Dr.
- 1715 – malicious destruction of property, 49700 Martz Rd.

- 2006 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, 8131 Kirkridge Park Dr.
- 2340 – noise complaint, 8986 Parkwood Dr.

Wednesday, June 13:

- 0006 – violation public health code/violation controlled substance act, 49364 S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 0758 – malicious destruction of property, 758 W. Huron River Dr.

- 0943 – traffic complaint, WB I-94 east of rest area
- 1018 – fraud, Walmart

- 1155 – trespassing, 14090 Red Oak Dr.
- 1217 – property damage accident, Fed Ex

- 1344 – fraud, 14793 Brookside Dr.

- 1419 – noise complaint, 10548 Jackson St.

- 1532 – noise complaint, 10548 Jackson St.

- 1728 – breaking & entering, 128 Richard Run

- 1905 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville

- 1908 – narcotics crime, Kirkridge

- 1910 – noise complaint, 10864 Jackson St.

- 1914 – disorderly conduct, 9886 Jackson St.

- 1933 – larceny, Kmart

- 2011 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd., VBT

- 2019 – malicious destruction of property, 8960 Hardwood Dr.

- 2111 – shots fired, 41651 Savage

- 2307 – fraud, 46425 Tyler Rd., VBT

Thursday, June 14:

- 0020 – juvenile complaint, Stonebridge Ct. / Stonebridge Dr.

- 0521 – suicide or attempt, 48920 Denton Rd.

- 0552 – suspicious person, 41482 Archwood

- 0700 – larceny from auto, 45945 S. I-94 Service

- 0738 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty

- 0841 – fight, 7223 Rawsonville Rd.

- 1118 – intimidation threat, 6936 Sheldon Rd.
- 1255 – animal complaint, Van Buren Park
- 1349 – suspicious person, Belleville/Tyler
- 1358 – dumping complaint, Belleville/Denton
- 1452 – larceny, 41555 Bellridge

- 1459 – operating while intoxicated, Savage/Wildbrook

- 1547 – felony assault, 12208 Hannan Rd.

- 1713 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler

- 1726 – malicious destruction of property, 7865 Belleville Rd.

- 1759 – animal complaint, Peninsular/Ventura

- 1809 – property damage accident, Haggerty / E. Huron River Dr.

- 2006 – harassment call, 10880 Belleville Rd.

- 2048 – noise complaint, 9305 Parkwood Dr.

- 2232 – ATV/ORV complaint, 49835 Cross St.

- 2340 – noise complaint, 49000 Denton

Friday, June 15:

- 0003 – operating while intoxicated, Denton/Cross

- 0006 – noise complaint, 49241 S. I-94 Service Dr.

- 0007 – assault & battery, 49345 S. I-94 Service Dr.

- 0043 – malicious destruction of property, 118 Richards Run

- 0143 – ATV/ORV complaint, 6784 Maurice Dr.

- 0228 – suspicious situation, 7630 Marlowe Ave.

- 0333 – assault & battery, 45945 S. I-94 Service Dr.

- 0736 – malicious destruction of property, 84 Park Estates

- 0953 – animal complaint, Walden Woods

- 1021 – larceny, 2035 Rawsonville

- 1111 – mental, 9107 Westlake

- 1127 – suspicious situation, 9845 Fairbanks St.

- 1203 – narcotics crime, Park Estates

- 1238 – property damage accident, 46425 Tyler Rd., VBT

- 1407 – property damage accident, Belleville/ N. I-94 Service Dr.

- 1413 – intimidation threat, 15400 Sumpter

- 1713 – property damage accident, Ecorse / Belleville

- 1900 – disturbance, 11700 Belleville Rd.

- 2044 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.

- 2047 – personal injury accident, Denton Rd. / Michigan Ave.

- 2049 – larceny, 45707 S. I-94 Service Dr.

- 2148 – fraud, 41810 Savage Rd.

- 2222 – operating while intoxicated, John's Hot Spot

- 2309 – noise complaint, 63 Park Estates

- 2313 – disturbance, 48460 Denton Rd.

- 2318 – noise complaint, 46280 N. I-94 Service Dr.

Saturday, June 16:

- 0007 – shots fired, 44780 Bemis Rd.

- 0246 – disturbance, 46111 Village Green Ln.

- 0357 – suspicious person, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.

- 0404 – suspicious person, Bemis/Haggerty

- 0500 – assault & battery, 11175 Haggerty Rd.

- 0504 – operating while intoxicated, 10760 Belleville Rd.

- 0750 – hospice, 43220 Riggs Rd.

- 0929 – malicious destruction of property, 10203 Van Buren St.

- 1010 – personal injury accident, Michigan Ave. / Deller

- 1029 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Bemis

- 1131 – property damage accident, Belleville / Ecorse

- 1234 – retail fraud, Kmart

- 1249 – fraud, 45521 Lilac Ln.

- 1251 – larceny, 2041 Rawsonville

- 1458 – larceny from auto, 13540 Lenmoore

- 1548 – suspicious person, Riggs/Renton

- 1616 – juvenile complaint, 8989 Parkwood Dr.

- 1714 – assault & battery, 41601 S. Bellridge

- 1918 – ATV/ORV complaint, Hayes/Jackson

- 2021 – lake complaint, Belleville Lake

- 2200 – ATV/ORV complaint, 62 Maple

- 2208 – juvenile complaint, 6227 W. Adams

- 2301 – noise complaint, Michigan Ave. / Rawsonville

- 2320 – malicious destruction of property, 6840 Edwards Rd.

- 2334 – fight, 167 S. Ponderosa Trl.

Also on this week's log are 244 traffic stops, 40 of which were on the freeways: I-94 and I-275.

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At the Independent
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Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, June 10:

- 0039 – civil matter, 109 Potter Dr.

- 0057 – intrusion alarm, 573 Main St.

- 0225 – suspicious situation, 109 Potter Dr.

- 0241 – assist fire dept., 109 Potter Dr.

- 0244 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 109 Potter Dr.

- 0602 – all other traffic, 6 Main St.

- 0915 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court

- 1157 – domestic assault, 6 Santa Clara

- 1330 – property damage accident, 6 Main St.

- 1549 – assist fire dept., 14 Santa Clara St.

- 1931 – trespassing, Hillside Cemetery

- 1957 – suspicious situation, Johnny's

- 2241 – noise complaint, Victorian Ct./Victorian Ln

Monday, June 11:

- 0633 – vehicle lockout, 41 Loza Lane

- 1047 – property damage accident, 6 Main St.

- 1108 – all other traffic, 25 Main, minimart

- 1242 – fraud, 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Ct.

- 1319 – traffic complaint, Main/Fourth

- 1710 – disorderly conduct, 54 Biggs Ave.

- 1737 – misc. complaint, 237 Victorian Ln.

- 1802 – agency assist, Bemis/Sumpter

- 1824 – family trouble, 237 Main St.

- 2224 – juvenile complaint, Sumpter/tracks

Tuesday, June 12:

- 0200 – noise complaint, Victory Park

- 0032 – domestic assault, 200 Henry St.

- 0107 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.

- 1034 – civil matter, 35 Bedell St.

- 1058 – welfare check, Savage/Victorian Ln.

- 1414 – background investigation, 6 Main

- 1522 – intrusion alarm, 91 Belle Villa Blvd.

- 1706 – abandoned auto, 474 Harbour Pointe Dr.

- 2147 – welfare check, 35 Carmell

- 2148 – found property, Village Park

- 2322 – suspicious person, 105 Main

- 2338 – suspicious person, Hayward's

Wednesday, June 13:

- 0142 – assist fire dept., 6 Main St.

- 0253 – intrusion alarm, 50 South St.

Judge Parrott gives Johnson six weeks to prepare next case

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On June 14, 34th District Court Judge David Parrott approved the request of a court-appointed attorney to adjourn for six weeks the next court session of his new client, Thomas Michael Johnson of Van Buren Township.

Johnson, 51, now is scheduled for his preliminary exam at 9 a.m. July 5.

Attorney Jeffrey Bowdich had just been appointed Johnson's attorney for a new charge of receiving and concealing stolen property and the attorney needed time to prepare his case.

Bowdich also had represented Johnson in a recent case where Johnson pled guilty to one charge of receiving and concealing, in a plea deal that dropped two additional receiving and concealing charges.

On June 7, Judge Tina Brooks Green sentenced Johnson to one year of probation, eight days on the court work program, \$700 in restitution to the victim, and \$525 fines and costs.

On June 14, Johnson told Judge Parrott that he now has a job and has been working for a week at \$11 per hour. He said he pays \$36 per week in child support and presently is living with his parents.

Johnson was arrested April 4 by Van Buren Township Police when he was seen carrying a stolen flat-screen TV to his then-residence in the 6500 block of Parkside in Town and Country mobile home park.

Police executed a search warrant at his residence and a large cache of jewelry and electronics were seized, along with

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued on page 23)

1309 – malicious destruction of property, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.
1323 – alarm, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
1401 – larceny, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1508 – alarm, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.
1808 – threats complaint, Carriage Ln.
2018 – suspicious person, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
2029 – threats complaint, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
2252 – property damage accident, Bemis / Martinsville
2321 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz / Haggerty

Also on this week's log are 26 miscellaneous details, 132 patrol checks, 56 traffic stops, and 17 follow-up investigations.

prescription narcotic bottles from prior break-ins in Denton Subdivision.

Police had been investigating the rash of home invasions in the Denton Subdivision area from November through April.

VBT Police issue scam alert on letters from United Kingdom

Van Buren Township police issued a scam alert after getting calls and visits from several residents reporting letters from a business in the United Kingdom.

These letters generally are posted from Canada and claim that the recipient is the winner of a \$150,000 lottery that they did not have to enter, but were instead selected randomly from US, UK and Canadian citizens.

The letter includes a check, written to the victim, for \$3,980. The letter requests that the victim call for instructions before cashing the check and sending a check to cover \$1,995 in "taxes" on the winnings. The letter further asks confidentiality be kept for security purposes.

"For those who are not aware, this is a scam," the police alert states. "A little research online reveals multiple complaints listed for the alleged company sponsoring the lottery, Beaumont Investment Group, as well as information linking the listed telephone number and contact person to scams out of Ontario, Canada."

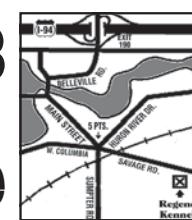


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Golf Courses
Graduations

Signs of the times



The old Belleville High School is in the process of being demolished.



Haggerty Elementary is newly closed and slated to be put into mothballs

Seeking graduates of BHS Class of 1973

Graduates of the Belleville High School Class of 1973 are being sought so the class' 40th reunion can be planned for sometime in 2013.

Please send the names, addresses, and contact numbers for the classmates to Laura Kingsley Delsh at bellevillemi1973.40@comcast.net or call her at 734-485-2744.



Elwell Elementary is newly closed and is expected to be demolished.

Independent photos by James Otzman

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INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

GARAGE/YARD SALE

410 Harbour Pointe Dr. June 21-23, 9-5 p.m. Antiques, Collectibles, Clothes, Mini Frig., 51" Projector TV, Dishes, Furniture, Books. Rain or Shine. 6/21

MOVING SALE - 50125 S. I-94 Service Dr. June 22-23, 10-2 p.m. Everything Must Go. Little Bit of Everything. 6/21

LARGE GARAGE SALE - 11116 Quirk Rd.. June 21-23, 9-6 p.m. Lots of Everything. 6/21

46600 BEMIS RD. June 21-23. Lots of furniture, Air hockey, Foos ball, 50 gallon fish tank, Hard shell carrier for vehicle. Lots of misc. 6/21

YARD & GARAGE SALE. 7170 Edwards off Ecorse Rd., E. of Belleville Rd. June 21-?, 10-7 p.m. Old records, Furniture, Dishes, Tools, Tractor, A/C and Much More. (734) 697-7506 6/21

44580 HARRIS RD. June 23-24, 10-5 p.m. Toys, Books, Clothes, Horse items, Baby items & lots more. 6/21

10976 BUCHANAN. JUNE 23, 9-2 p.m. Children's, Kitchen, Household, Books, Some Vintage Jewelry, Craft supplies. 6/21

YARD SALE FUNDRAISER - CLASS of 2014 Lincoln High School. 7425 Willis Rd. June 21-22, 9-5 p.m., June 23, 9-3 p.m. Household items, Office supplies, Clothes, Baby items & Much more. 6/21

43925 BURTRIG RD. off Martinsville Rd June 21-23, 9-5 p.m. Come and see what we have. Lots of fabric. 6/21

5 FAMILY SALE - 758 W. Huron River Dr., June 28-29, 9-5 p.m. Boy's, Girls & Women's clothes, Shoes, Purses, Toys, Dishes, Glassware. Something for Everyone. 6/28

BIG BIG SALE - 39099 CHASE RD. off Hannan Rd. June 28-30, 10-6 p.m. Lots of tools & Men's Stuff, misc. 6/28

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MOVING - LG. Walnut Hutch (new), \$275. Queen Anne Desk, \$200. Tables, \$40 ea. Sony 27" TV, \$40. Inversion machine (corrects spine alignment, \$100. Snow blower, \$125. Gas Power washer, \$100. (734) 391-7307 Ray 6/21

32" Buzz Circular saw w/50' belt, \$400. 5,000 BTU Coleman generator on wheels-110-220 DC, \$700. Globe Comm. Meat cutter, \$700. (734) 941-1467 Hank 6/21

KAYAK POOL, 16x32. Newer liner & filter. \$400 (734) 461-2670 6/21

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Will Rogers

Birthdays

June 23 – Jessica Griffin
July 4 – Kay Atkins

Do you have a birthday in June or July? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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TFN

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6/21

TO THE MAN WHO Bought a lawn mower at yard sale on June 16. I found the manual. Call Sarah or Kevin at (734) 325-6896

6/28

LOST

SMALL WHITE/GREY MALE DOG w/red harness & short brown leash attached. (734) 697-2439

6/21

FOUND

CALICO LOOKING CAT. Found in Sumpter, Judd, Fenster, Bontekoe area. (313) 384-0877

6/28

ENAMEL BANGLE BRACELET found in Van Buren Park week of June 9th. (734) 697-9446

6/28

FOUND LARGE BUNCH of Keys w/ three rings at Sumpter Rd. S. of Willis Rd. (734) 699-1177

7/05

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, June 25 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Administration Building (may have to enter through Davis Street if front drive is closed)

- Tuesday, June 26 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water & Sewer Commission, 7 p.m.

- Wednesday, June 27 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

- Thursday, June 28 – Van Buren Township Cultural Advisory Committee, 11 a.m.

- Monday, July 2 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, July 3 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.

- Monday, July 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Administration Building

- Tuesday, July 10 – Van Buren Township LDFA, 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m.

- Wednesday, July 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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7/05

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Chief Loyer

(continued from page 1)

to stop immediately, that he was frying the crew inside."

They checked on the interior crew (Danny Wilson, Bruce VanGemert, John Henderson and Marc Abdilla) and no injuries were reported.

The next day Chief Loyer reportedly apologized to everyone involved, telling

Karver that he had reasons for why he did what he did, but Karver said none of them made any sense.

At the end of the complaint, Karver asked: "Why is the Fire Chief unable to understand basic firefighting tactics? Is this why the Fire Chief does not show up on major incidents or when he does he just takes pictures? This incident clearly demonstrates the Fire Chief's lack of experience not only as a firefighter but

as the top command officer for the Fire Department.

"The safety of the Fire Department membership should be a top priority and starts at the top. No one has confidence in his ability when he is on scene," Karver concluded.

He said he would provide statements from the firefighters involved and more information, if needed.

The complaint was sent to Battalion Chief Ron Folks on April 23 and then immediately on to Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan. Karver heard nothing

for a month. He asked about it and was told it was being worked on. He sent a dozen emails to those in upper command in the fire department, and received no updates on the status of his complaint.

The complaint was confidential until last Thursday, when Public Safety Committee chairwoman Diane Madigan asked to see it and Karver complied with her request. He said he had been asked to give her information in the past, so he gave her what she asked for.

On Friday, Director McClanahan finally asked for Karver's side of the complaint.

"I am trying to do the right thing," Karver said during a telephone interview on Sunday. "I'm trying to keep people safe."

Madigan shared the complaint with her committee members and she and other members asked township administration why this complaint hasn't been addressed as yet, since it is a safety issue.

On Sunday, the *Independent* asked Township Supervisor Paul White about the complaint and he replied: "The complaint is going through the process and should be completed very, very shortly."

He explained that Director McClanahan was investigating.

Loyer was the fire chief for the City of Belleville's small, all paid-per-call fire department before joining VBT as chief in 2009.

Friends argue, fight, refuse to press charges in Van Buren Township

On Thursday, June 14, at about 3:47 p.m., a man had his old friend over for a visit in the 12200 block of Hannan Road in Van Buren Township.

The visitor is also the man's marijuana caregiver, reported VBT Police Captain Gregory Laurain.

The two got into an argument and the caregiver picked up a 2x4 and hit the complainant in the back, Captain Laurain said. Then, the man went into the house and got a BB gun and chased his friend off the property.

When VBT police arrived, they found neither party wanted to file charges against the other. The case is closed for now, Laurain said.



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